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Shahak accuses PM of distorting cabinet incident

By JAY BUSHINSKY

A letter from Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which was leaked to the media yesterday, deepened the personal chasm between them and sparked speculation that they would become political rivals after Shahak steps down next month.

Shahak accused Netanyahu of misquoting him from Sunday's cabinet meeting and of distorting the session's protocol.

He advised the prime minister to check the minutes, contending he would see that it was not the international conference proposed by France and Egypt that he had intended to discuss, but the projected Arab summit.

According to cabinet sources, Netanyahu cut Shahak short, telling him that as acting foreign minister, he would deal with that issue.

Official reactions to the brief but barbed exchange between the two varied.

In his letter, Shahak criticized Netanyahu, saying, "You are not precise."

The prime minister's media adviser, Shai Bazak, replied that this affair was "a storm in a teacup" and charged that the chief of staff was "exaggerating" the gravity of the incident.

A cabinet source commented that the incident "shows that he [Shahak] has political ambitions," and that he has a lot of nerve for putting his complaints in writing.

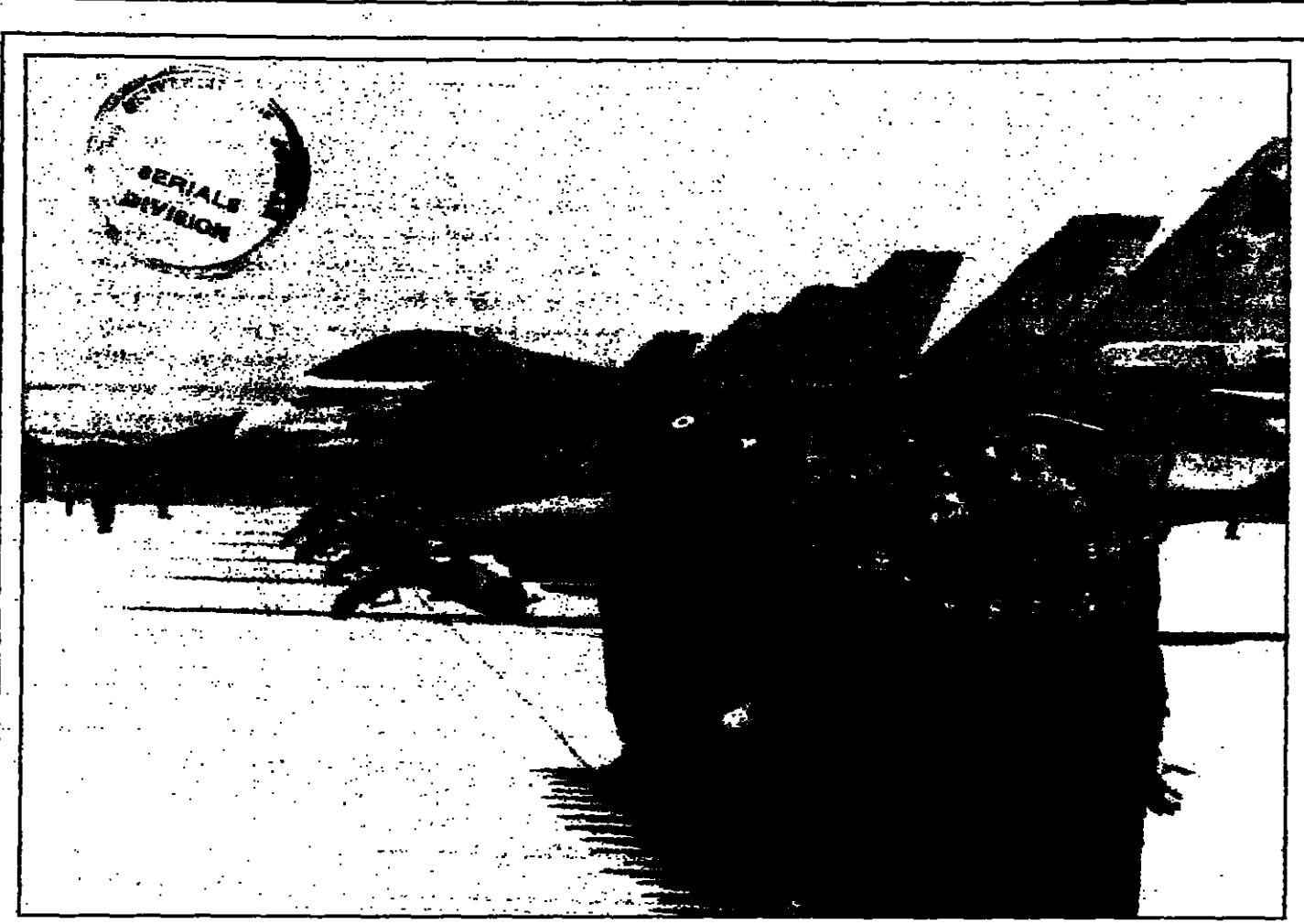
At a photo opportunity on Monday, Netanyahu acknowledged the factual error in his remarks and confirmed that the chief of staff had intended to discuss the projected Arab summit.

The Prime Minister's Office later issued a statement reaffirming that Shahak had intended to deal with the Arab summit. It added, however: "According to statements made by members of the Prime Minister's Office, because both are political issues and there is no need for the chief of staff to relate to them."

Ariel O'Sullivan adds:
IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Oded Ben-Ami refused to confirm the contents of Shahak's letter or comment on the report.

Michael Yudelman adds:
The Labor Party's secretary-general MK Ranan Cohen responded to Shahak's letter by demanding Netanyahu resign.

"Once again the prime minister was found lying brazenly to the public, this time at the expense of the chief of staff," Cohen argued.



Lining up in Cyprus
Turkish F-16 pilots line up at a small Turkish Cypriot airport in Gecitkale yesterday. Six of the warplanes landed in northern Cyprus in the latest act of brinkmanship between Turkey and Greece following the arrival of six Greek planes in the southern Greek Cypriot air base at Paphos earlier this week. Story, Page 7

Iran rejects US peace overtures

Albright to Teheran: Let's work towards normal ties

By MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

NEW YORK - The US, in its first formal overture toward better relations with Teheran since the Islamic Revolution, has invited Iran to help draw up "a road map leading to normal relations."

The offer was quickly rejected.

If a process can be "initiated and sustained in a way that addresses the concerns of both sides, then we in the United States can see a very different relationship" with Iran, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said in a speech Wednesday in New York.

"As the wall of mistrust comes down, we can develop with the Islamic Republic, when it is ready, a road map leading to normal relations," she said.

Albright noted that Teheran has taken a number of favorable steps, including giving public support to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, instead of backing more radical Palestinian groups.

State-run Iran Radio rejected Albright's overture.

"Washington's mere announcement that it is prepared to establish ties with Iran is inadequate... Washington [must] show goodwill as well," it said.

Before relations can be restored, the US must "renounce violence against Iran," release Iranian assets frozen in the US and "apologize to the Iranian nation for its wrong policies in the past 50 years," the radio commentary said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi added in a news conference in Madrid that "until the United States shows that it is ready to have an attitude toward Iran that is based on mutual respect and equality, there won't be very many possibilities for relations."

He said Albright's speech showed Americans were coming to some new understandings. But no major progress was likely "until hostile policies of the United States against Iran are changed and they approach Iran with new attitudes."

See IRAN, Page 12

Police question Wallerstein over Arutz 7

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The head of the Binyamin Regional Council, Pinhas Wallerstein, was questioned under caution by police late yesterday afternoon regarding Arutz 7, the settler pirate radio station raided by police on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said attempts are underway to legalize Arutz 7 broadcasts in the form of an independent authority for the residents in Judea and Samaria.

"Residents in Judea and Samaria are also entitled to their own station," Hanegbi said, adding that he hoped the issue would be raised in a cabinet meeting today and that the means would be found to allow Arutz 7 to operate legally as an independent station.

Before entering the police station, Wallerstein told reporters he did not know why he had been summoned and that he has no links with Arutz 7.

Police sources, however, said Wallerstein was to be questioned about transmitters found on the roof of Psagot's community center during the raid, and other technical equipment discovered at the site. Wallerstein reportedly told police that he would take full responsibility as head of the regional council.

Station managers of Arutz 7 failed to show up for questioning after being summoned to the Criminal Investigation Division in Petah Tikva yesterday. The three station managers are Beit El Rabbi Zalman Melamed, who reportedly remained in his home, Yoel Tsur, who claimed he had not been summoned, and Yaakov Katz, who is abroad.

In response to the raid, settlers yesterday morning started broadcasting from the Psagot community center, calling their station, "Kol Binyamin."

A few hours later they were forced to shut down for lack of permits. Members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza vowed that additional stations would be opened.

Council members claimed that they had received a written permit from the Ministry of Communications on May 10 for a community station for Binyamin residents.

The raid on Arutz 7 continued to give false information should step down," he told Israel Radio yesterday.

In response, a Communications Ministry spokeswoman said Linat had always stressed that to the best of her knowledge Arutz 7 operated outside Israel's territorial waters.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani defended the raid yesterday including accusations that the Prime Minister's Office had been unaware of the planned crack down.

He said that "[Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's bureau knew there were problems with Arutz 7 and the prime minister has discussed the issue a number of times."

"I will not update the prime minister's bureau about investigations. That's something the police must do at their own discretion and in their own time."

Interior Minister Eli Shas called for legalizing Arutz 7 as well as the haredi pirate radio stations.

Hanegbi: Gov't wants to legalize Arutz 7, Page 3

Sporting diplomacy

By DAVID RUDGE

Soccer and wrestling might prove to be the sporting ties that help pave the way to a rapprochement between Iran and the US and herald a new era of relations, according to Iranian affairs specialist Reuven Merhav.

Just as table tennis tournaments between American and Chinese teams set a precedent for reconciliation between what had been two diametrically opposed countries, Merhav said sport could bring Iran and the US closer together.

Merhav, who has closely monitored events in Iran over the years, said sporting ties between the US and Iran correspond with a yearning among the majority of Iranian citizens, especially the young who make up a large percentage of the population, for closer ties with America.

"This we know from various people who came recently from Iran, who noted that among citizens, and especially supporters of President Mohammed Khatami, there is a genuine desire for improved relations with the United States," Merhav said. "In my opinion, the scene and the time are ripe for the opening of a cautious but serious dialogue between the two countries, which of course would be for the benefit of all concerned, including Israel."

Iran's soccer team takes on the US Sunday in a first-round match at the World Cup finals in France, while Iranian and American wrestling teams recently encountered each other at an international competition.

Merhav said the tentative overtures by the American leadership to Iran constituted an important and positive message to the Iranian people and those in the region generally.

See SPORTING, Page 12



Reuven Merhav

Nimrodi pleads for court's mercy in sentencing

A day after being convicted in a plea bargain of wiretapping his competitors, Ma'ariv board chairman Ofer Nimrodi made an impassioned appeal yesterday to the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for mercy in sentencing, declaring that he regretted his actions.

"It wasn't greed or hatred nor any criminal or shady ambitions. I acted out of concern and love for Ma'ariv," Nimrodi said in final arguments before sentencing. "I bow my head before this honorable court to express sincere remorse and ask for forgiveness."

He asked the court to take into account his past clean record and that he had acted in response to difficult circumstances.

"The families who once monopolized the newspaper business didn't want us as colleagues and didn't like our threat to their hegemony. It was insulting. Not in my worst nightmares did I ever imagine that the Nimrodi family's entrance to the business of print journalism would be regarded by its competitors as a violation of an unwritten law, as an affront to the newspaper dynasties of Israel. I was ready for competition. I wasn't prepared to be delegitimized," Nimrodi said.

Nimrodi said he still felt the scars of rejection for being told "in a thousand ways - you are not one of ours."

"I want to believe that the personal heavy price that I'll pay will be part of a necessary healing process for print journalism," he added. "The wiretap episode should be the last note [of this animosity]." "I for my part will help to rectify this sick situation."

Prosecutors have sought an eight-month sentence and a 10-month suspended sentence against Nimrodi for wiretapping senior editors at Yediot Aharonot some four years ago. Sentencing is expected in two weeks.

(lim)

Jewish groups protest pope's plans to meet antisemitic envoy

By ELI WOHLGELER and KARL PFEIFER

Jewish groups are outraged over Pope John Paul II's plans to meet today with a professor of theology who has accused the Jews of ritual murder.

The pope's three-day visit to Austria is to include a meeting with the Vienna-based diplomatic corps, whose members include Dr. Robert Prantner, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Knights of Malta.

In a December 5 article in the Austrian publication *Zur Zeit* Prantner argued that rather than the Catholic Church apologizing to the Jews for centuries of anti-Semitism, the Jews should apologize for "their deplorable crimes... against Catholic children like the holy martyr-child Aderl von Rinn, against adults in the days before Easter... and for the blood of murdered Christians, spilled by Jewish hands, which cries to heaven, too."

Efraim Zuroff, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israel office, said "this theologian, Prantner, is basically saying that the blood libel is true - we're in 1998 for God's sake! This is outrageous. This is taking us back to the Middle Ages. This guy is the antithesis of everything the present pope has worked on in terms of Catholic-Jewish relations and is a dark stain on the Austrian church unless this person is totally condemned by their leadership."

The Knights of Malta is a Catholic lay order. While Prantner is not a diplomat, he is an employee of the Vatican, according to Rabbi David Rosen, director of the Israel office of the Anti-Defamation League.

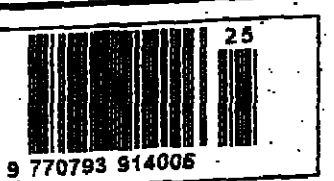
"The Knights of Malta is a lay order in which he serves as their ambassador," Rosen said, "and which still has status within the Catholic Church, and therefore it's certainly within the power of the Catholic Church to tell the Knights of Malta to clip this fellow's wings."

Prantner was a lecturer at the theological seminary at the Heiligenkreuz monastery, a member of Engelwerk, a right-wing Catholic organization, and is a former director of studies at the political academy of the Oesterreichische Volkspartei.

"He has some significant credentials within the Catholic Church," Rosen said. "In certain areas of academic specialization, as well as diplomatic representation, he might be perfectly competent. But that doesn't in any way detract from the fact that he has publicly on record made some of the most outrageous antisemitic comments - and has not been publicly chastised by either the local church or the Vatican, despite letters that we have sent to the headquarters of the Knights of Malta in Rome."

The blood libel accusing Jews of the ritual murder of Aderl von Rinn took place in the 17th century and was used to incite pogroms against the Jews. It was condemned in 1985 as a falsehood by Innsbruck Bishop Reinhold Stecher, who also banned pilgrimages to the Church of Rinn, which had become a shrine as the purported place of the ritual murder.

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Jerusalem 7:09 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
Tel Aviv 7:27 p.m.	8:33 p.m.
Haifa 7:22 p.m.	8:34 p.m.
Beersheba 7:24 p.m.	8:23 p.m.
Eilat 7:20 p.m.	8:28 p.m.



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NEWS

in brief

Israel denies nuclear cooperation with India

The Foreign Ministry yesterday issued a denial that Israel had cooperated in India's nuclear tests. The statement came after a suggestion to this effect made by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub in an interview with Israeli reporter Orly Azulai-Katz. He had cited this as an obstacle to the establishment of relations between Pakistan and Israel. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Levy not returning to cabinet

Gesher chairman MK David Levy does not intend to rejoin the cabinet unless progress is made in the peace process and the government fulfills its social commitments. "The ministers don't know where [Netanyahu] is heading. There's uncertainty. We're all worried about the situation and where it's heading. The situation is grave," Levy said on Channel 1 last night. He said the issue of his returning to the cabinet is marginal, but the reasons for his departure still stand. Levy also blasted the idea of holding a referendum about a withdrawal. *Michal Yudelman*

PM suggests Yassin can return to Gaza

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signalled yesterday that Israel would allow Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin to return to Gaza from a four-month tour of Arab states. Netanyahu said on Sky News Television that "there are different views but the expert opinion among our security chiefs is that it's better that he be in the [Palestinian] territories where there is some constraint on his activities." Yassin obtained a visa on Wednesday to enter Egypt, and plans to head there from Sudan on Monday. Hamas official Mousa Abu Marzook said yesterday in Amman. *News agencies*

Italian Jews get Nazi-looted valuables back

More than 50 years after they were stolen by the Nazis, five sacks bulging with jewellery, watches, coins, gold teeth and other personal belongings were finally returned yesterday to Jews of the Italian city of Trieste. A moving ceremony was held in Rome to mark the handover of the valuables - discovered gathering dust in Treasury vaults last year - to the Trieste Jewish community. The belongings were stolen from Jews in and around Trieste while it was under Nazi occupation from September 1943 until the end of the war in 1945. *Reuters*

Four Mothers urges positive response to Hariri

The Four Mothers movement which is campaigning for the withdrawal of IDF troops from south Lebanon yesterday called on the government to respond positively to the peace overtures made by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri during his visit to the U.S. Hariri is to meet with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan today in New York. "In the midst of World Cup mania, the heads of Lebanon and Syria have returned the peace ball to Israel's court," said Rachel Ben-Dor, the head of the movement. We call on the government to take the initiative, do everything to ensure the peace and quiet of the North and end the tragedy in Lebanon," Ben-Dor added. *David Rudge*

PM hears about Iran, Iraq from US experts

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took time out of his schedule Wednesday evening to meet with former top Pentagon officials and Russian academics about regional threats. For 80 minutes, Netanyahu sought their opinions on Iraq, Iran and Russia. According to Prof. Shai Feldman, head of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, who arranged the mini seminar, Netanyahu was very attentive and inquisitive. He was particularly interested in hearing the impressions which

Geoffrey Kemp, a former security aide from the Reagan Administration, currently of the Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom, brought back from Tehran where he visited in March. They discussed ways of keeping nuclear material and missile technology away from Iranian and Iraqi hands. Most participants agreed that Russia could not be pushed too hard with economic sanctions, which could backfire if they are too severe.

See EXPERTS, Page 12

WINNING NUMBERS

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazaq drawing, ticket number 445457 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 501560 won the car. Tickets 808481, 507473, 556912, 489016, 597806, 163284, 193809 and 869220 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 85773, 13733, 15622, 18973, 51721, 96407, 41548, 74597, 58596, 76639, 62470, 41978, 58077, 06849, 45444, 81573, 09142, 13852, 58085, won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 778, 992, 019, 353, won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 25,96,84,28, won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 60 and 97, won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 0 and 6, won NIS 10.

CORRECTION

The article "US slams J'lem house demolitions" (June 16) incorrectly attributed the phrase "let's not be so Talmudic about it," regarding the PLO Covenant, to State Department spokesman James Rubin.

Mordechai: Remove Goldstein shrine

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and AP

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has instructed the IDF to uproot the shrine surrounding the Kiryat Arba grave of Baruch Goldstein, saying it glorifies a terrorist.

Mordechai said he expected the army to carry out the action following the newly passed bill banning memorials in the memory of those who committed acts of terror.

"Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai today ordered the chief of the Central Command to implement the law... banning monuments in remembrance of perpetrators of terror," Mordechai's spokesman said in a statement.

The Knesset passed the legislation, popularly known as the Goldstein Law, last week and it officially went into effect yesterday.

According to clause 6 of the bill,

the defense minister must order the IDF to demolish the memorial erected in Kiryat Arba.

Goldstein's stone grave site has become a large paved plaza and includes memorial candles, a cupboard with holy books, a bench and water taps.

Under the law, however, his body and headstone cannot be removed.

Mordechai said the present memorial there "glorifies the name

of a person who carried out a massacre worthy of all condemnation."

Goldstein, wearing an IDF uniform, gunned down 29 Moslem worshippers in Hebron's Cave of the Patriarchs in 1994 before being beaten to death.

Mordechai's office said that even before the law was passed, he had set up a committee headed by OC Central Command to remove the memorial items set up around Goldstein's grave.

The committee was instructed to come to an arrangement with Goldstein's family over what should be done with the site.

But before the committee could complete its work the bill was passed and Mordechai said it must be carried out without delay.

Channel Two television said militant settlers in the Hebron area had called an emergency meeting to decide what to do if the military moved against the shrine.



Playing the fool

Israeli actress Miri Avital and her boyfriend David Schwimmer, from the American TV show *Friends*, promote their new film *Kissing a Fool* at a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday. Avital, who is a graduate of the Tehma-Yelin arts high school, was discovered by a Hollywood agent five years ago in a New York restaurant. She has made five films alongside stars such as Kurt Russell, James Spader and Johnny Depp. *Vanity Fair* recently voted her one of Hollywood's most promising actresses. (Yael Somchil/Israel Sun)

Defense officials, MKs discuss budget increases

By STEVE RODAN

Defense Ministry officials and parliamentarians discussed yesterday a NIS 58-billion military budget increase over the next decade to face what both sides agreed are increasing regional threats against Israel.

Members of the Knesset Defense Budget subcommittee, chaired by MK Meir Shitreet, and a Defense Ministry panel agreed that the stalled Arab-Israeli peace process and the emerging ballistic missile and nonconventional threats from

Arab states, especially Iran, require Israel to plan for a multi-year defense budget to develop new weapons. The Defense Ministry assessment is that the current regional tensions will continue for at least several years.

This is the first time that Knesset members and the leading analysts of the defense establishment are sitting together to come up with serious analyses," said MK Ran Cohen, a member of the subcommittee.

The question is where Israel will raise the funds required for the

multi-year defense budget. The Defense Ministry has drafted a 10-year budget - from fiscal year 2000-2010 - that would increase the current NIS 30 billion annual defense budget by NIS 58 billion. More than 20 percent of the current Israeli defense budget comprises US military aid.

There was agreement in yesterday's meeting that additional defense funds should come from both increased US military aid to Israel as well as increases in the state budget. Next month, the US Congress is expected to begin

debate of an Israeli proposal, drafted by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, to convert half of the current \$1.2 billion economic aid to Israel into additional defense aid.

Defense sources said the additional budget would be allocated for planned purchases of jet fighters during the next decade, bolstering of the armored corps and the navy, and the launch of a new phase of Israel's space program to augment the Homa anti-missile defense system.

See BUDGET, Page 12

Qurei: PA will announce state despite Israeli threats

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NABIE

The Palestinian Authority yesterday dismissed Israeli warnings that the declaration of a Palestinian state would lead to Israeli countermeasures in the territories.

Palestinian Legislative Council speaker Ahmed Qurei (Abu Ala) said the PA would not be "held hostage" to Israel in deciding Palestinian self-determination.

Qurei, speaking to reporters after meeting in Ramallah with a delegation of Australian parliamentarians, said the failure of Israel to implement the interim agreement in the territories has hurting the Palestinian economy.

Qurei said the Palestinian state will be announced regardless of whether the peace process achieves progress.

"The final purpose of the signed accords with the Israeli side is to reach self-determination for our people and existence as an independent state," he said.

Qurei said the Palestinian people and their leadership refuse to remain hostages for the Israeli side, which "is imposing a siege on our land and may try to reoccupy some of our land." Qurei said the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes in present-day Israel remains the core of the conflict. He added that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved as long as Israel fails to reach a settlement with Syria.

Qurei was speaking as PA chairman Yasser Arafat continued meetings with various Palestinian factions on the proposed cabinet reshuffle.

See PA, Page 12

Israeli Mission trying to block PLO upgrading status at UN

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The Israeli Mission to the UN is scrambling to meet with up to 40 ambassadors by the week's end to block support for a General Assembly resolution that would upgrade the PLO's status at the UN.

It appeared yesterday that the debate in the General Assembly, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, might be canceled because support for the resolution was uncertain. The resolution was sponsored by the Arab states.

There also were complaints yesterday that the Palestinians had reneged on vows to the US to stop using the UN as a forum to vex the Israelis.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke Wednesday with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and was told that the European Union was unlikely to support the

Palestinian status change, a high-ranking Israeli source said yesterday.

A senior Israeli official said yesterday that, in 1996, Palestinian deputy leader Abu Mazen promised US ambassador Madeleine Albright, in the presence of then foreign minister David Levy, that he would tell the PLO observer to stop raising Palestinian-Israeli issues at the UN. Last December, according to the official, Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat made a comparable commitment. Those pledges were unfulfilled, the official said, adding: "If we made a commitment like that and didn't come through, the world would come down on us like a ton of bricks."

Elli Wohlgelemer adds: Netanyahu reacted harshly yesterday to reports of the planned effort by the PLO to upgrade its

UN status, saying this constituted a violation of the Oslo Accords.

"Well, we're well aware of this effort, and it's not a new one. It happens to be a violation of the basic agreement that we have with the Palestinians. And there is an agreement that final status issues are not going to be determined unilaterally but will be determined in a negotiation," he told reporters in his office yesterday. "Now if the Palestinian say we don't care, we push for status in the UN, that will immediately say that we have to respond."

Netanyahu added: "I think this would be a complete subversion of any possibility of achieving an agreement. We communicated this yesterday with the American government. I talked to Prime Minister Blair yesterday on this, and I'm going to speak to other European leaders today, because I think that they obviously speak of peace, they want peace, this will be a tremendous blow to peace."

Australian speaker says Arabs confused over Israeli policy

By JAY BUSHINSKY

A high-level Australian parliamentary delegation touring the Middle East discovered "frustration" and "uncertainty" in the surrounding Arab states about Israel's current handling of the peace process, its leader Ian Sinclair said yesterday.

"Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is calling the shots, but is not showing his hand," Sinclair, who serves as speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, went on. He favored "international pressure" to generate progress based on the principle that boundaries have become strategically irrelevant in the contemporary world.

Overall, the impression gained by the Australians was that Israel's message is "confused," with some leading political figures talking like doves and others like hawks. "It's hard to get the direction in

which they are going," Sinclair said.

Referring to the territorial aspects of the regional dispute, Sinclair said "borders no longer are sacrosanct. The basis of peace is personal trust and personal contact, especially between businessmen, but also between rank and file citizens."

The Australian lawmakers praised President Ezer Weizman for seeking an early end to the current impasse between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Sinclair expected Weizman to urge Netanyahu to show diplomatic flexibility and adopt a conciliatory position. Sinclair noted that Weizman has not seen the prime minister for several weeks, but hopes to do so shortly.

A seasoned politician who previously served as Australia's minister of defense, Sinclair belongs to the National Party, which is part of Australia's incumbent coalition government.

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Hanegbi: Gov't wants to legalize Arutz 7

Legitimizing Arutz 7; not an easy matter

By DAN IZENBERG and Nim

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said yesterday that the government wants to give Arutz 7 a franchise to operate legally and that the Ministries of Defense and Communications are already at work to achieve that end.

Speaking during a visit to Tel Aviv District Court, Hanegbi said, "It is important that there be a regional radio in Judea, Samaria and Gaza."

There is no reason for there not to be a station there, just as in any other region of the country."

Asked what made him certain that Arutz 7 would win the tender for such a regional station, Hanegbi replied: "They have the experience."

A Justice Ministry spokeswoman said there had been no discussions held on the matter yesterday in the ministry and that Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein was abroad until Sunday.

On Wednesday, in the wake of threats by the National Religious Party to pull out of the coalition, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced the establishment of a ministerial com-

mittee to look into legalizing the pirate station.

Hanegbi said Netanyahu hopes to find a solution to the affair during a meeting planned in his office today with all the officials involved. He said a solution must be found which doesn't create friction or confrontation, so that it will be possible to supervise the broadcasts.

A Justice Ministry official said that the military government has been preparing an order for the establishment of a regional radio station in the West Bank and Gaza for many months. The official explained that the

station will be run along the same lines as the regional radio stations operating under the Second Channel, but because the territories are not part of Israel, it will be an independent station.

The military government has been working on the changes that must be made in Second Channel regulations to make them applicable to a station in the territories, the official said, adding that the procedure has taken longer than it should have.

The Second Channel's radio committee warned the government last night against trying to

circumvent the panel's jurisdiction in granting a license to Arutz 7, it reported.

In Haifa, owners of the Arutz 7 broadcasting ship, Hazevi filed a motion in the district court to cancel an arrest warrant that has been pending against them since March. The ship had been sued for NIS 900,000 for allegedly damaging fish pools off the Herzliya coast.

Judge Bilha Gilor asked the boat owners to supply more details about their British insurers, who are supposed to put up a guarantee of some \$250,000 against potential damages.

The ministerial committee appointed by Prime Minister Netanyahu to look into legalizing Arutz 7 is likely to discover that there are several ways to accomplish this.

There are, however, significant obstacles to each possible course of action that would need to be considered before the government could act.

The committee could recommend issuing a broadcast license to Arutz 7 based on the current system for licensing regional radio stations.

This option is problematic both because the law allows only regional broadcasting (and Arutz 7 would want to retain its national format) and because the law states that the license must be issued as part of a tender process, in which others would be given an opportunity to bid against the current Arutz 7.

Finally, the law forbids licensees from expressing a specific party line, and says that broadcasts must be balanced. Arutz 7's raison d'être is its right-wing perspective.

Another option which may be considered by the committee would be for the government to instruct the IDF military command in the territories to issue a license. The IDF is not subject to Israeli broadcasting law in the West Bank, and is generally empowered to legislate in the territories as it deems necessary to maintain security and order. The problem with this route is that the

Supreme Court may interfere in the military's decision if it finds that it is based on political motives.

The only remaining option would be to have the Knesset enact a law legalizing Arutz 7. The Knesset has the power to legislate any action the majority of its members deem fit, with very few exceptions, and political motives are allowed.

Although a law by the Knesset legalizing Arutz 7 may be constitutionally challenged as being discriminatory, there is only a small chance that the Supreme Court would declare the law unconstitutional.

Even if this direction is chosen, the fact that the station has operated for 10 years without a license remains a punishable criminal offense.

Therefore, if a Knesset law legalizing the station does not provide some sort of amnesty, Arutz 7, its owners and operators may have to face criminal charges with respect to the past.

Dr. Sommer is a lecturer at the Radzyner Law School, Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya

ANALYSIS

By Dr. HILLEL SOMMER

Pirate stations persist

By HELEN KAYE

According to Professor Yechiel Limor, an expert on pirate radio stations, there are between 120 to 140 such stations operating at any one time. The figures, including those from the Communications Ministry, can vary from 100 to 200 because pirate radio stations that are closed frequently reopen under another name.

Police have shut 32 pirate stations since January 1, acting on ministry information, and confiscated the equipment. Last year 54 stations were closed.

Since 1993 some 200 stations have been closed, most of which promptly reopened. Legalizing these stations is difficult since there are not enough frequencies available.

Digital radio broadcasting is still some years off.

The courts can impose fines of up to NIS 3 million and two years imprisonment, but in practice pirate radio operators are rarely prosecuted, and when they are, they tend to get off with minor fines. Neither the courts nor the police rate the prosecution of pirate radio operators high on their list of priorities.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat stresses that her ministry's job is solely to pinpoint the pirate's location. Enforcement is up to the police and the courts. However, the number of ministry inspectors has expanded from three to eight and the ministry has recently acquired a sophisticated mobile detection unit.



A Greenpeace picture shows the Israeli ship 'Aribel' off Haifa on Tuesday night, allegedly dumping toxic sludge in the sea. (AP)

Greenpeace films Haifa Chemicals dumping waste into Mediterranean

By LIAT COLLINS

Greenpeace Mediterranean yesterday released documented footage of a Haifa Chemicals ship dumping waste into international waters off Haifa.

According to the group, the sludge being dumped by Aribel is very acidic and contains heavy metals such as zinc, cadmium and mercury.

The company has a permit from the Environment Ministry to dump up to 60,000 tons of sludge until October.

Greenpeace activists in inflatable dinghies intercepted Aribel on Tuesday night and held a protest as the dumping was being carried out.

"For the first time the dumping operation has been documented at sea, and the blackish sludge photographed and filmed to show the

world how reckless Haifa Chemicals is when it comes to the Mediterranean Sea," said Ofer Ben-Dov, head of Greenpeace Mediterranean's Israeli office.

Haifa Chemicals could not be reached for comment, but Environment Ministry spokesman Yiftah Kramer said the sludge is non-organic and did not contain the heavy metals that Greenpeace claims.

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Netanyahu condemns Manbar Zichroni slams PM's remarks

By DAN IZENBERG and Reuters

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that businessman Nahum Manbar had committed one of the most terrible acts in the country's history by selling poison gas material and chemical weapons equipment to Iran.

"This man is a criminal who committed a terrible act the likes of which I cannot recall in the history of the state," Netanyahu told reporters.

"He was arrested. He was tried. He was found guilty. I hope that he will pay a heavy price on his terrible deed," Netanyahu said.

"We have had serious incidents in the country's history, but a case like this - aiding the production of weapons of mass destruction in an enemy state with the declared intention of annihilating the state of Israel - I cannot recall anything like this," Netanyahu said.

Manbar's attorney, Amnon

Zichroni, branded Netanyahu's remarks "vulgar interference in judicial deliberation."

Zichroni said Manbar's trial was not yet over because the court's decision involves two phases - the verdict and the sentencing.

"The decision is not complete yet," he explained. "The prime minister's remarks are a violation of judicial deliberation. He cannot give the court directives. I hope his comments were off the cuff and not deliberate."

Zichroni added that he had protested to Netanyahu about his interference in the case once before.

"Just after Manbar was arrested, Netanyahu said that he had done a terrible thing," Zichroni recalled. "I wrote him a letter and saw to it that it reached his desk. In the letter I told him he could not discuss the case and explained to him what constitutes interference in judicial deliberation. From that day until today, Netanyahu did not mention the case."

Netanyahu endorses Greater Jerusalem plan

By ELI WOHLGELER

A far-reaching 12-point plan designed to strengthen Jerusalem, including annexing land west of Jerusalem, the building of a tunnel under Mount Scopus to connect with Ma'aleh Adumim and the creation of a Silicon Valley in the capital, was formally endorsed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday.

The plan has been the focus of much debate over the last three months, especially by residents in communities west of the Jerusalem, who have objected to the creation of a Greater Jerusalem via an umbrella municipality that will wield administrative powers over those nearby towns.

"I think this is a basic change in Jerusalem's status which will be remembered as a turning point," said Netanyahu at a morning news conference, attended by Mayor Ehud Olmert and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman.

"The first thing we are doing is to link Greater Jerusalem,"

Netanyahu said, referring to the planned tunnel road link with Ma'aleh Adumim, and plans for the construction of a ring road around eastern Jerusalem to be built over the next three years.

"The second thing is strengthening the Jewish majority in Jerusalem," the prime minister said, which would include creating a high-tech industry within the capital to stem the exodus of skilled and educated labor from the city.

Netanyahu was formally receiving the Directors-General's Jerusalem Report, a committee comprised of Moshe Leon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, and the director-general of the Interior Ministry, the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Development Authority. The plan - to be funded under the 1999 state budget - will now be presented to the cabinet on Sunday with Netanyahu's firm endorsement.

"Jerusalem will stand at the top of our priorities in the budget framework," said Neeman.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) receives the Director-Generals' Jerusalem Report from Moshe Leon, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, as Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert looks on. (Brian Heller)

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Knesset panel to consider allowing no-confidence votes during recess

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset House Committee is expected to decide next week whether no-confidence motions can be heard during the recess in special sessions.

The issue was recently raised in the committee by MK Haim Ramon (Labor). MK Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) has asked the Knesset's legal adviser, Zvi Inbar, to examine the matter. Hendel said this week he believes Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could decide on the

further redeployment at the end of the summer sitting, in the last week of July, or during the summer recess which lasts until late October. Then, he need not worry about being toppled in a no-confidence motion.

Ramon similarly suggested that the prime minister might present the redeployment to the Knesset in the last week of the sitting. If it is turned into a motion of no-confidence, Netanyahu can then avoid implementing it for the three months of recess, according to Ramon.

Ramon has asked the committee to amend the House Rules to enable no-confidence motions to be heard during a recess in the same way that the Knesset has been convened for special sessions on a limited number of "urgent motions to the agenda" at the signed request of 30 MKs.

The Knesset House Rules neither negate nor endorse the idea. However, traditionally it has been accepted that no-confidence motions are held on Mondays only in a regular session.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon,

who opposes the amendment, said the Knesset would continue as it had throughout its existence, without no-confidence motions during a recess. He said the suggested amendment had been examined and rejected several times in the past.

Coalition and Likud whip Meir Sheerit said that Labor's effort to change the current practice "is an attempt to turn the Knesset House Rules into a tool of the opposition. The Labor Party has forgotten that the House Rules are there to serve both the coalition and the opposi-

tion and preserve the orderly work of the Knesset."

Labor whip Elie Goldschmidt said Sheerit's response shows that Ramon is correct in assuming the prime minister intends to postpone the vote to gain the recess period as well. "This just turns the House Rules into a joke," Goldschmidt said.

If the amendment is passed, Goldschmidt added, he would recommend that his party not abuse it by continuing during the recess the practice of filing weekly no-confidence motions.

The pros and cons of referendums

Referendums, on the surface, seem to be the ultimate democratic instrument.

What better way to decide cardinal issues such as whether to go ahead with a second-stage withdrawal from the territories, or a pullback on the Golan Heights than by going directly to the people? And, indeed, the government is reportedly deliberating whether an agreement with the Palestinians on a second-stage withdrawal should be brought to the nation in the form of a referendum.

Definitely not, said Dr. Arif Carmon, head of the Jerusalem-based Israel Democracy Institute. Not only does Carmon not see referendums as the last word in representative democracy, he goes so far as to say that they actually could endanger the democratic process.

"Referendums are a populist tool that endangers Israeli democracy and constitutes an additional step in the process of taking authority from the Knesset," he said. The principal danger in referendums, Carmon said, is that they could lead to violence in situations where the margin of victory is slim, and a large minority will not accept the decision of the majority may take violent action. By contrast, he said, parliamentarians make decisions through a process of dialogue and negotiations, where all divergent shades of opinion are expressed.

"Especially in Israel's split and complex society," he said, "there is a need to preserve this important principle of democracy, and to demand of the decision makers in the Knesset and government that they make the right decisions."

Carmon added that the details of complex issues can be worked out in parliaments, something that can not be done through a general referendum question. "It is impossible to express a position on an issue as complex as the second withdrawal through a yes or no answer to one ques-

tion."

Carmon said that democracies are built on the idea that the voters give their representatives the power to decide. "They need to decide, and not avoid the decisions. I see referendums in Israel as a way to avoid decisions," he said.

The last time the referendum issue was raised seriously was during negotiations with Syria over the Golan, when then prime minister Yitzhak Rabin said he would call a referendum before pulling back on the Heights. Last year, Third Way MK Yisrael Harel failed in his attempt to legislate that any decision to withdraw from the Golan would necessitate an absolute majority in the Knesset, as well as a referendum.

Carmon said another danger lurking behind referendums is that the country may unwittingly be opening the door to "racist and irrelevant" considerations. "We're already hearing voices that the Arabs can't take part in this or that issue. So you are inviting all kinds of racist and irrelevant elements in the front door that, if the decision was made in the parliament, would not come up."

Hebrew University political science professor Ira Shatzkany said that referendums also invite demagoguery. "This is the second withdrawal, does this mean we are going to have a referendum on every withdrawal," he said. "That can get pretty complicated. It lends itself to demagoguery, especially on an issue like this."

Shatzkany pointed out that the state of California has referendums on a variety of sensitive issues. "But there it is a fairly long process to get the issues on the ballot, and it is designed to be a long time between the proposal and the actual vote, not something that is done in the heat of the moment," he said. "The essence of a constitutional government is to slow things down and give people a chance to think."

IN CONTEXT



Ancient workshop on display

An archeological display featuring a unique pottery workshop built by the Tenth Roman Legion was put on display yesterday at Binyanei Ha'uma, the Jerusalem Convention Center. The Antiquities Authority said the clayware was made nearly 2,000 years ago at the workshop, which was uncovered during excavation at the site of the center in 1993.

Referendum 'is the best way to decide'

By GIL HOFFMAN and MOAH STREET

While opinions were varied about whether a referendum should be held about a second redeployment in the West Bank, most of the people questioned by a couple of reporters yesterday in Jerusalem expressed support for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of the peace process.

"In my opinion it might not be a bad idea considering [the prime minister's] problems in the coalition. A referendum could give him backing to proceed with a pullback of 13 percent or whatever he wants to do," Yisrael Katz of Karamon said.

"It's the best way to decide on such an issue," said Haim Greenbaum, of Meah Shearim. "True, Bibi was elected by the people, but on such a specific and complex issue there should be a national decision."

Aharon Cohen, a 27-year-old resident of the city center, said that

with a referendum, "Both Israel and American will finally know what the people of Israel want."

Sima Amzarg, 41, said that regardless of the results of a vote, "in the end what's important is that there be security, quiet and peace in this country. That's what we care about."

Others were more skeptical

about holding a referendum.

Naor Sasson, for example, said that "no matter what the result, Israel will return the settlements, because of American pressure, and there will be a Palestinian state. The referendum is only cosmetic and will probably result in a tie as these issues are never black and white."

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Survey: More women back 13% pullback

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

More Israeli women than men support a 13-percent pullback from the West Bank, regardless of their political, religious or ethnic background, according to the first survey in Israel to examine whether women constitute a political interest group.

The survey findings were presented at a press conference this week by Prof. Alice Shalvi, founder of the Israel Women's Network (IWN).

Thirty four percent of the women surveyed were in favor of the 13% pullback proposed by the US, 31% were for a smaller withdrawal, and 20% were for no withdrawal.

Twenty-five percent of the men were in favor of withdrawing in accordance with the US proposals, 39% were for a smaller withdrawal and 20% were for keeping troops where they are.

The survey research was prepared for the IWN by international political consultant Craig Charney, who advised US President Bill Clinton during the 1996 elections.

Mina Zemah of the Dahaf Institute did the actual polling. Most women - 51% - expressed discontent with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's performance on education, while 53% of men found it adequate.

Women tend to rate Netanyahu's performance on women's issues as poor. Only 32% are satisfied with it, while 42% of the men think he has done well.

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NEWS

in brief

Neeman urges end to psychologists' strike

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday called for educational psychologists to cease their strike and return to the negotiating table after negotiations came to a halt between Reuven Goldberg, secretary-general of the Histadrut and Yosi Kucik, wage-director for the Finance Ministry.

According to Goldberg, negotiations have ceased because the Finance Ministry refuses to disassociate the salary changes of educational and clinical psychologists.

Addressing an economic forum in Tel Aviv, Neeman demanded that psychologists resume negotiations immediately because the strike directly affects children. Until these psychologists return to work, children with psychological problems cannot be placed in their proper classes. *lit*

Tira resident killed in gunfire exchange

Ibd Abdul Shafik, 27, of Tira was fatally shot yesterday morning in a shootout, police said. Four suspects have been detained.

Shortly after midnight, Shafik and another man arrived at a residential building in Tira and opened fire. Shots were apparently fired in response from inside the building, which hit Shafik. He was brought to a hospital here he died of his wounds. Police believe that the shooting was the result of a disagreement between families. *lit*

Man convicted of strangling Jerusalem woman

Ahmed Dejam was convicted yesterday in Jerusalem District Court of murdering Anna Karblishvili at Labor Party headquarters in downtown Jerusalem a year ago.

Another man, Samir Refat, was convicted of involvement in the crime in a separate trial. He is serving a life sentence.

Karblishvili went out with the men on June 6 last year. After having sex with Refat, Dejam tried unsuccessfully to convince her to have sex with him, too and then raped her.

Fearing that she would complain, both men strangled her with a telephone wire which they found lying around. *lit*

Court extends remands of shooting suspects

The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday extended by six days the remands of six suspects held in the attempted killing last month of Ronni Harari at a Givatayim coffee house.

The six are also suspected of the attempted killing of 11 other people during the massive shooting that night. The six suspects are Shalom Hadif, Avraham Ruhan, Moshe Avitan, Dotan Shukrun, Itzhak Hadif and Moshe Bet-Ada. Police say charges will be brought against them in the coming days.

The court yesterday rescinded a ban on publication of the name of the state witness in the case, Meir Zeidov. *lit*

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Australia's racist rumble

In Britain, taking political advice from a taxi driver narrowly beats taking it from a barber, a football hooligan, or a chip-shop owner. In Australia a former chip-shop owner is winning hands down.

Meet Pauline Hanson, the muttering myth-maker of New Racism - or maybe just some vineyard old White Australia sloop in new bottles.

Hanson's ultra-right One Nation party has sent shock waves through Australia after winning nearly a quarter of the vote in last week's Queensland election. Opinion polls show the party's support nationwide now in the low teens and rising, as more rednecks stretch from their blue collars. It is Australia's Madame Le Pen phenomenon.

"These bloody foreigners, they come here, they take our jobs, they marry our women. Deport the lot of them!" As a foreigner who's made a life of living in other people's countries enjoying their jobs and women, guess whose side this impartial columnist is on.

However, Hanson is not a racist because she says Australia is in danger of being "swamped by Asians" and opposes immigration.

Whose foreign?

Anti-immigration may be an illiberal platform, but it's a perfectly valid one within the field of legitimate right-wing politics. Politicians can be anti-immigration without hating the people they want to stop flooding their country.

Where leopards of Hanson's stripe reveal their spots so beautifully is when their country has a truly native population with an ancestry of millennia, like - oh, let's say Aborigines.

Shuffle, shuffle, what the lady really means when she says "foreigners" is not the hundreds of thousands of Irish or British or Europeans in Australia. These are "our proud Anglo-Saxon heritage." So then, foreigners would be people with slitty eyes, or broad noses, or unpink skins.

Up to the Fifties, a color bar was applied to Australian immigration and Aborigines were denied citizenship - this was the infamous White Australia policy, apartheid at the gate - which never was officially acknowledged while it was being implemented.

The party's public platform advocates halting Asian immigration, scrapping Aboriginal land rights, and banning foreigners from owning more than 49 percent of any local company. Its voters can read between the lines of Hanson's taciturn monosyllables.

Jews arise

The word "Jew" has not even been whispered in One Nation propaganda yet, but no one is holding their breath for Anglo-Saxo certification by Hanson. The Australia-Israel and

Jewish Affairs Council moved sharply to its feet and dispatched a letter to dithering Prime Minister John Howard, saying: "In view of the threat which you acknowledge Mrs. Hanson represents to Australia's tolerant, cohesive and peaceful society, we trust you will do all you can to ensure the One Nation party is placed last."

[This refers to the placing of party names on Liberal "how-to-vote" cards in the forthcoming federal election.] Howard has been clinging to an ineffectual policy of not confronting Hanson's party. His aloof stand on the moral high ground has been to leave the blue-collar plains undefended except by effete liberal activists in sandals. It clearly is time to get down in the dirt and mire and engage in battle for Australia's civilized federal soul.

With One Nation's national support rising, Howard may now delay calling the general election expected in August. Many would tell him to let Australians nip this wild weed in the bud now, rather than hope it will flourish for a while and wither away. The Ethnic Coalition of Australia and individual Italian, Greek, Chinese and Vietnamese community organizations, have backed the Jewish initiative and themselves urged Howard to wake up, take a stand, and join uncompromising political battle against the Hanson bandwagon.

Who will speak... As often happens these days, economic clout may in the end be more persuasive than liberal indignation in persuading the voters nationwide that racism is not a cash crop.

Here's a question One Nation voters might ask themselves: When Pauline was running her chip-shop, did she make a habit of throwing hot oil in the faces of her best customers? Asia may be in recession, but like it or not, Mrs. Hanson, it's still one big market for one little Australia. Spokesman Jim Sheu of the Taiwan-Australia Business Association said the firm had taken huge numbers of calls from potential investors who may dump their plans if anti-Asian cowboys ride into the global village atop One Nation. Sheu is telling clients never mind Queensland, hang in until the federal poll. He's betting that the sum of Australia is greater than its weirder parts. Just as America has its deep South - so Australia has its deep North.

It is heartening to see the swift multi-ethnic reaction, indicating that one old lesson may have at last been learned: "When she booted the Chinks, I said nothing, because I was not Chinese, when she booted the Abos, I said nothing because I was not Aboriginal..." We know the rest.



Thomas O'Dwyer

US envoy in Tokyo for economic talks

By WILLIAM MALLARD

TOKYO (Reuters) - US Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers arrived yesterday for a crucial meeting to nail down policies to revive Japan's flagging economy, which was threatening to spark another regional crisis that could turn global.

"We are glad to be here and looking forward to discussing a range of issues, including economic policies in the United States and Japan, and including the ongoing economic and financial situation in Asia," Summers told reporters after arriving at Narita airport near Tokyo.

On Wednesday, the two economic superpowers conducted their first joint currency market intervention in six years, succeeding so far in stemming the Japanese currency's freefall, which had threatened to trigger another round of Asian devaluations.

Leaders around Asia applauded

the move, lighting a flicker of hope in the otherwise gloomy region.

"We are glad to see that the exchange rate of the Japanese yen is picking up," said China's central bank governor Dai Xianglong. He was quoted by China's official Xinhua news agency as saying a devaluation of the Chinese yuan was not necessary.

The World Bank's East Asia and the Pacific vice president, Jean-Michel Severino, who said on Tuesday that Asia was plunging into a depression, also praised the intervention.

"It's a positive step forward," he said in Sydney.

Japanese officials said yesterday they were now ready to move aggressively on pledges of economic and financial reform that had been key to winning US support.

"We will take bold measures for strong Japanese and Asian economies. In particular, we will carry out the disposal of bad loans to stabilize the financial system and steps to increase domestic

demand." Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said in a nationally televised news conference.

He added that the government will promote the disposal of such loans, especially those with land as collateral, through measures such as asset securitization.

Finance Minister Hikaru Matsunaga also said he would explain in detail when he meets Summers on Friday the measures Japan will take on its bad-loan problem, adding he hoped that the government and ruling party could come up with bad-loan steps by next Tuesday.

Hashimoto also reiterated his pledge to carry out an overhaul of Japan's corporate and private income tax systems, but stopped short of saying he will cut the income tax.

"The issue of a permanent tax cut was not a topic in my conversation with [US President Bill] Clinton," he said, referring to his telephone talk with Clinton on Wednesday ahead of the joint

intervention.

The financial daily *Nihon Keizai* said yesterday in its evening edition the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party might announce permanent income tax cuts before Upper House parliamentary elections set for July 12.

Japanese and other Asian stocks and currencies roared their approval of the US-Japan action, while Japanese bond yields climbed on the reported plan for a permanent tax cut.

Japan will also host an emergency meeting of the deputy finance ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) and the nations which took part in the Manila framework tomorrow.

The meeting will also involve officials from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

The Manila framework is named after a meeting involving Asian nations, including Japan and the US, in Manila last year to discuss steps to stabilize the region's economy.

Hashimoto said he was "happy with the fact that the joint intervention was appreciated by the market", where the Japanese currency surged by about 10 yen from its eight-year lows earlier this week.

Japan's recession-bound economy, frail banking sector and especially recently plunging yen had spread fears through the world that it would drag Asia into a new round of crisis and perhaps spark a global recession.

The joint yen-buying intervention on Wednesday marked a sharp turnaround for the US, which had repeatedly said the only salvation for the yen was for Japan to right its economy.

But the onus remained squarely on Tokyo to follow through with aggressive measures on the economy and financial sector.

"The absolute key is that the Japanese government take the necessary actions with respect to their economy," Summers' boss, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, said.

Spielberg stalker sentenced

By DAN WHITCOMB

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (Reuters) - A man convicted of stalking Steven Spielberg with plans to rape him was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison on Wednesday after the movie director asked the judge to impose the maximum sentence.

Jonathan Norman, 31, was convicted March 4 of stalking Spielberg, in a trial that included emotional testimony by the filmmaker that he feared for his life after learning that Norman had been caught near his home with handcuffs and duct tape which police described as a "rape kit." Spielberg told Superior Court Judge Steven Suzukawa he came to court "as a father, a husband and a son," who would only feel safe with Norman behind bars for a long time.

"I place myself in your hands," Spielberg said. "The prospect that Jonathan Norman might have another opportunity to carry out his threats is beyond frightening to me."

The director, wearing a conservative gray suit, read a prepared statement from a podium in the courtroom and did not turn to look at Norman, who was seated three meters away flanked by two armed sheriffs deputies.

Another deputy stood at Spielberg's side during his remarks, and two more stood at the doorway to the courtroom.

Members of the director's private security staff sat in the gallery.

Norman, in yellow and blue jail garb, watched Spielberg read the statement but showed no emotion. Though he was in Ireland filming *Saving Private Ryan* when Norman was arrested, Spielberg said the incident remained one of the most chilling in his life.

"Had I not been out of town on the first of July, I genuinely, in my heart of hearts, believe I would have been raped or maimed or killed and the same could have happened to my wife and kids," he said. "This was not a man at all inhibited or remorseful."

Norman was sentenced to the long prison term under California's "three strikes" law, which calls for life terms for career criminals caught on a third offense.

Notes, to a throng of reporters and cameramen.

She was dressed casually but her demeanor was anything but.

In a fluent display of how to handle a hungry media, Woodward denied speculation she had sold her story but said she would talk to the BBC for free.

As for her future, Woodward craved normalcy.

"I'd like to do what any 20-year-old would do. I'd like to get a part-time job, you know, just do normal things," she said. "I've grown up an awful lot [in the United States]. I know too much about American law."

After her packed news conference at Manchester airport, Woodward returned home to Elton in northern England, a village which campaigned vigorously for her release and helped pay for her defense.

Reporters watched as Woodward, welcomed by her younger sister, ran the final few steps to the front door of her home.

The Eppens, both doctors, have in turn worked the US legal system hard to prevent Woodward profiting from their son's death. On Wednesday, a US judge issued a temporary restraining order forbidding Woodward from spending any profits she might make from the case.



Anti-nuclear tour

Hiroshima survivor Yasuhiro Taketa (left) addresses a crowd in Pokaran, India, yesterday, while a villager looks at a painting of the atomic bomb blast in 1945. Pokaran, the site of India's nuclear tests, is one of Taketa's stops on a tour to protest India's and Pakistan's decisions to test nuclear devices.

McDonald's to cut corporate staff for first time

By SUSAN NADEAU

CHICAGO (Reuters) - McDonald's Corp. on Wednesday said it planned to cut 23 percent of the workforce at its headquarters outside Chicago, reducing the corporate staff of the world's biggest restaurant chain for the first time in its 43-year history.

McDonald's said it would eliminate 525 of the 2,300 jobs at its sprawling Oak Brook, Illinois, headquarters over the next 18 months, a larger reduction than analysts had expected.

It said it would record a charge against second-quarter earnings to cover the cost.

"While eliminating jobs is a painful process - both personally and culturally - it is necessary to make these changes to refocus and realign with our restaurants and, where appropriate, bring home office resources closer to them," Jack Greenberg, the company's new named president and chief executive, told home office employees.

The job cuts follow a study launched in March to find ways to

maximize productivity, reduce costs and align staff support more closely with restaurant operations, said the company, which has been plagued by unrelenting competition and some recent menu flops.

"It is essential that we enhance our ability to compete and provide future growth for the entire system," Greenberg added.

After the news, McDonald's stock closed \$1.31 higher on the New York Stock Exchange at \$65.44.

McDonald's spokesman Charles Ebeling said the company expected most of the reduction to be achieved through voluntary severance and retirement. He said there are currently about 100 vacant positions at the headquarters, which are included in the announced cuts.

The cuts will be made across the board, including company officers, Ebeling said. He described severance packages as "generous" and said the company would provide career counseling.

McDonald's said it would announce the size of the second-

quarter charge in mid-July, when the company would know how many people were voluntarily leaving. At that time, the company will also detail how much it expects to save from the work-force reductions and other cost-cutting measures.

Further savings are expected from a decision to scale back restaurant development. Ebeling also said general and administration expenses had jumped in recent years. "We're bringing that in line," he said.

Lehman Brothers analyst Mitchell Speiser said Wall Street expected the company to streamline operations enough to save \$100 million, including the job cuts. But that estimate was based on expectations that the company would eliminate 10%-15% of its corporate staff, he said.

"This 23% reduction is higher than expected, so that is encouraging in terms of meeting the \$100 million mark," Speiser said.

"This time around it seems like they really are doing the right things to restore their competitiveness in the US," he added. "You have to see

the actual ongoing cost-savings number, but this is setting the stage for a very meaningful cost-reduction at the corporate level."

In March, McDonald's unveiled to its franchisees a new made-to-order food production system that it aims to have in place across the US by the end of next year.

A program to help them pay for the new system will result in another second-quarter charge, which the company had previously estimated at \$170m. to \$190m.

The study and resulting job cuts are an extension of last summer's move to decentralize US operations, giving five regional divisions more autonomy. At that time, many staff support jobs were moved from the home office into regions, McDonald's said.

The field organization is not affected by the home office changes announced on Wednesday.

McDonald's Corp., founded in 1955, has more than 23,000 restaurants in 110 countries, including more than 12,000 in the US.

Louise Woodward arrives in Britain claiming innocence

By ELLIS MINYANDU

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - A composed and smiling Louise Woodward arrived in

Britain yesterday, denying she killed the US baby in her care and voicing faith that her name would one day be cleared.

Woodward, who spoke with a

slight US "war" after her 717 days in the United States, complained that she had not received a fair trial there and said it was good to be back in Britain after her high-profile ordeal.

The 20-year-old said she had grown up beyond her years during the sensational trial, learned too much about US law and wanted nothing more than a normal life of work and university among family and friends.

"Despite the fact I feel very sorry for the death of baby Matthew [Eappen], like I've said time and time again, I had nothing to do with his death. I did not hurt Matthew and I did not kill baby Matthew and I just hope that the medical community will take up my case now that all avenues of appeal are closed," Woodward told reporters after flying home from the United States.

Asked if she had a message for the grief-stricken Eappen family, who say Woodward shook their crying son to death, the stony-faced au pair issued an emphatic "no".

Thousands watched Woodward's lengthy trial broadcast live on both sides of the Atlantic last year in a case that split US and British opinion and made a celebrity of the plain English girl who embarked on a

new life as an au pair in the comfortable East Coast suburbs.

A jury convicted her of second-degree murder in the February 1997 death of eight-month-old Matthew Eappen, who died of severe head injuries. That verdict was set aside last November and Woodward was sentenced on a charge of manslaughter to time served of 279 days.

Woodward said her trial had not been fair, tainted by "atrocious" pre-trial publicity, and said the best route now was to prevent future similar miscarriages of justice.

"I'm all in favor of educating people about shaken baby syndrome because I think there really isn't enough known about it," said Woodward. "But it's a conviction that I don't deserve and I think in time the truth will come out, and I think in time I'll be cleared."

She returned home a free woman but her name has not been cleared. The *Mirror* newspaper's banner headline declared Woodward a "First Class Child Killer" following her expensive overnight flight from Boston in a first-class seat.

Though flanked by her parents and a member of parliament, it was 20-year-old Woodward who resonated composure as she put her side of the story, without

notes, to a throng of reporters and cameramen.

She was dressed casually but her demeanor was anything but.

In a fluent display of how to handle a hungry media, Woodward denied speculation she had sold her story but said she would talk to the BBC for free.

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A memorial evening for our late president

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A wonderful husband, father and friend.

All our love and sympathy are with you, now and always.

Shirley, Leslie, Linda and Joanna

המלחמה לא תסתיים

Following similar Greek move

Turkish war planes land in tense Cyprus

LEFKONIKO, Cyprus (Reuters) - Six Turkish F-16 war planes swooped into the north of Cyprus yesterday in the latest exercise in brinkmanship between NATO allies Turkey and Greece. The jets, bristling with weaponry, were parked on the tarmac at a small Turkish Cypriot airport in Lefkoniko, known as Gecikale in Turkish. Tight security measures were in place at the base and anti-aircraft guns were stationed on the runway.

The arrival of the jets angered the Greek Cypriot administration, recognized abroad as the island's only government. "We will protest the violation of our airspace to the United Nations," a Greek Cypriot military source said. The deployment was in retaliation for a brief visit by four Greek fighters and two transport planes to the southern Cypriot air base of Paphos this week. Turkey has termed the Greek trip, the first of its kind, an "extremely grave and provocative development."

Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz warned Greek Cypriots that they would come off worse from any escalation in tension on the island. "The Greek Cypriots would be the ones who suffer from an escalation in tension," the state-run Anatolian news agency quoted Yilmaz as saying on a trip to Bucharest. Ethnic Greeks and Turks on Cyprus have been divided since 1974, when Turkish forces invaded the northern third of the island after a Greek-inspired coup. Turkey, which has much larger armed forces than Greece, has 30,000 troops in a self-declared Turkish Cypriot state in northern Cyprus.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Wednesday urged calm. "I strongly hope that all parties involved will abstain from any action which could further exacerbate tension and I count on their fullest support in the United Nations continuing efforts," he said in a written report on Cyprus. Greece and the Greek Cypriots have had a defence pact since 1993. Tension has grown since the Greek Cypriot government announced plans to deploy S-300 anti-aircraft missiles from Russia in southern Cyprus later this year. Turkey has threatened to strike

against the missiles. Turkey and Greece have come close to conflict several times in recent years in disputes over territory in the Aegean Sea. The possibility of conflict between Greece and Turkey deeply concerns other members of the NATO alliance who fear destabilization of Europe's volatile southeastern flank. Wrangling over the European Union's rejection of Turkey's bid to enter the EU has further increased the mistrust between the Turkish government and EU member Greece. Ankara cut dialogue with the EU last year on sensitive political

issues such as Cyprus, after the bloc put Turkey's long-standing membership bid on hold, citing disputes with Greece among its reasons. Outgoing EU president Britain had wanted this week's summit in Cardiff to send a more positive signal to Ankara to bring it closer to the EU fold. Greece refused to budge, even in the face of pressure from US President Bill Clinton, who made a direct appeal to Prime Minister Costas Simitis for gentler diplomacy. Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem accused the Athens government of having a long-term strate-

gy to use Cyprus as a military foothold to attack Turkey. "The joint Greek and Greek Cypriot military doctrine and the S-300s on the island are obvious signs that southern Cyprus is to be used as a spring board under the Greek plans for an attack on Turkey," he told a news conference. "Turkey has taken and will continue to take all the necessary measures against preparations for an attack," he said. Brokers said the jet row had sent jitters through Turkey's fickle stock exchange, which was expected to come under heavy pressure in its afternoon session.

Clinton to press China on arms, rights

By STEVE HOLLAND

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - US President Bill Clinton will press the Chinese on missile control issues, human rights and opening trade barriers during a nine-day visit to China which is to begin next Thursday, a senior US official said. US National Security Adviser Sandy Berger told reporters the United States would raise "serious and significant differences" with China during the first visit by a US president to China since the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators. On his trip, Clinton will visit the ancient Chinese capital, Xian, the capital, Beijing, the commercial center, Shanghai, the natural splendor of Guilin and, finally, Hong Kong. He arrives in China on June 25 and departs on July 3. The trip comes at a time of instability in Asia brought on by a

financial crisis that is roiling markets and a nuclear arms race between Pakistan and India, which both have detonated nuclear test devices in recent weeks. At the same time, Clinton has faced heavy criticism from members of Congress for his decision to attend a welcoming ceremony at Tiananmen Square and a political controversy over campaign donations and launches of US satellites aboard Chinese rockets. Clinton will use the trip to defend his insistence that the United States must remain engaged with China, the world's most populous nation, and use the relationship that develops to seek changes in Chinese behavior. US officials have long-standing concerns about alleged Chinese transfers of missile technology, particularly to Pakistan, although they say there have been improvements in Beijing's behavior.

There also have been reports that China is still discussing sales of missile test equipment with Iran, which would violate a commitment Chinese President Jiang Zemin made during his Washington summit with Clinton last October. Berger said Clinton and his aides on the trip would "seek further steps by the Chinese to bring itself wholly in line with international regimes" regarding arms technology transfers. Clinton is expected to speak about the need for China to improve its human rights practices and mention the Tiananmen Square crackdown. Here again, the United States points to progress, saying that leading dissidents like Wang Dan and Wei Jingsheng have been released due to US engagement with China. Clinton, said Berger, "feels very strongly that China cannot develop

unless its people have the freedom to express themselves politically as well as economically. A US delegation is in Beijing now working on trade issues with the Chinese. White House National Economic Council chairman Gene Sperling made clear the United States wanted to see a Chinese commitment to lower trade barriers before Washington would support Chinese membership in the World Trade Organization, which oversees international trade. Sperling mentioned high tariffs on US exports such as autos and chemicals, and difficulties US businesses have working through China's distribution system which favors Chinese companies. "I think, as we go forward, we very much want to work with China to bring them into the WTO, but the ball is very much in their court," Sperling said.



Around the world on a horse

German Manfred Schulze, 55, arrives in the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator on Wednesday, after a two-year horse journey from Germany. Schulze wants to be the first person ever to ride around the world on the same two horses. (AP)

Senate kills tobacco bill

By JOANNE KEMEN

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Senate has killed the landmark anti-smoking legislation, dealing an enormous victory to cigarette makers and crushing public health advocates' hopes for a comprehensive national tobacco policy. Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, the chief author of the bill, credited the industry's "very wise investment" in a multimillion dollar advertising campaign which had portrayed his legislation as a huge tax hike by a greedy govern-

ment masquerading as a teen smoking initiative. "It's not about taxes," McCain said. "This bill is about whether we are going to allow the death march of 418,000 Americans a year who die early from tobacco-related diseases and do nothing." "The losers are America's children," McCain said, noting that 3,000 start smoking every day, 1,000 of whom will die prematurely. The Senate debated the sweeping bill for a month, but never got a chance to vote on the actual legis-

lation. Conservative Republicans finally drove a procedural stake through its heart on Wednesday, on the grounds it violated budget rules. Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi said the bill had "not with good intentions but spun out of control." "It is a sorry mess," he said of the whole tobacco effort. Democrats vowed to keep the tobacco issue alive, one way or another. "It may very well be that the final vote on this issue is passed on

Election Day," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat. "This is not a whodunit. We know who done it. It is big tobacco and the Republican party." US President Bill Clinton said he was "very disappointed" by the Senate action and warned Republicans there could be political consequences. "If more members of the Senate would vote like parents rather than politicians, we could solve this problem and go on to other business of the country," Clinton told reporters.

Czech Republic holds elections

By JAN LOPATKA

PRAGUE (Reuters) - An often shallow Czech election campaign ended on a dramatic note with controversial warnings that a vote for the Left could mark a return to totalitarianism. The Civic Democratic Party (ODS) of former prime minister Vaclav Klaus blitzed the country, on the last official day of campaigning for the vote being held today and tomorrow, with posters and newspaper advertisements calling for the "mobilization" of all citizens wishing to live in freedom. "I am calling upon all who want to live free. I am calling upon all who are not indifferent to the fate of our country..." Voice ODS, the fliers signed by Klaus declared. Other newspaper advertisements placed by private individuals warned of a return of dictatorship and work camps which they said may come with a left-wing government. The posters were a final bid by Klaus and the ODS to swing votes

away from the center-left Social Democrats, who top opinion polls and are likely to lead the next government. Klaus, whose ODS enjoyed unbroken power until the center-right coalition collapsed in November, frequently warns that a vote for the Social Democrats is tantamount to voting for a return to the days before the 1989 fall of communism. However, President Vaclav Havel and many politicians and commentators have said that Klaus's warnings were unfounded. The Union, formed by ODS rebels after the Klaus government fell in November, staged its final rally in downtown Prague, giving away free beer to spectators, many of whom were clearly more attracted by free drink than by politics. Christian Democrat leader Josef Lux also criticized the ODS "Mobilization" campaign as unwarranted scare tactics. "It is scaring people, which is not dignified in a democracy," he said.

India's potential arsenal bigger than UK's - Jane's

LONDON (Reuters) - India's potential nuclear arsenal is bigger than that of Britain and in the same league as that of the French and Chinese, according to the latest edition of Jane's Intelligence Review.

The nuclear tests conducted by India last month have provided crucial information suggesting the country could build hundreds of nuclear weapons, the authoritative defence journal said in its July edition. It said India's nuclear weapons program was based primarily on weapons-grade plutonium reprocessed from irradiated fuel taken from two research reactors located at Trombay. "Based on the fissile material output of these two reactors alone, India's nuclear weapons stockpile is put at anything between at least 20 weapons to at most 65 weapons," said the article by W.P. Sidhu, a specialist on South Asian security issues. However, India also has other commercial reactors that produce plutonium not considered ideal for weapons, and there are indications from last month's tests that India has attempted to make nuclear weapons from this kind of plutonium, Jane's said. If this commercial reactor plutonium is taken into account, "then India would possess enough fissile material to build at least 390 weapons and at best 470 weapons," the article said.

Some other countries, notably Britain, have successfully made nuclear weapons from the less ideal reactor plutonium, Jane's said. "The development of India's nuclear weapon delivery systems indicates that a classic nuclear triad

force - with distinct land, sea and air components - will eventually be created," the article said, adding that this could happen by the end of the next decade. A missile-based delivery system would probably be the mainstay of

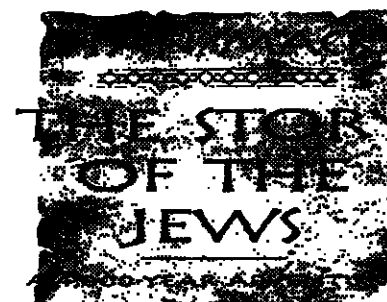
this emerging nuclear force Jane's said. "In the case of Pakistan, India clearly has conventional superiority and also a second-strike nuclear capability," the article said. Pakistan detonated a series of

nuclear devices last month after India surprised the world with its nuclear tests. "Therefore it (India) is likely to follow a no-first-use doctrine even if there is no formal agreement with Pakistan," Jane's said.

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Nimrodi must resign

Among all the institutions upon which democracy is built, none combines such incredible power with a lack of accountability and legitimacy as does the press. No one elected the press, and no one oversees it, yet the public depends upon the news media to rise above its own financial bottom-line and fulfill a critical democratic role.

The admission by Ofer Nimrodi, *Ma'ariv* chairman of the board, that he did engage in illegal wiretapping reveals that Nimrodi knowingly lied to the public through an open letter, printed on the front page of his own newspaper. For the sake of his paper, and to salvage public trust in the fourth estate, Nimrodi must resign from all positions of authority within *Ma'ariv*.

On Wednesday, Nimrodi and his chief of security, David Ronen, were convicted on nine charges of illegal wiretapping and disrupting court proceedings. Under the plea bargain reached, some of the original charges—such as obstructing the police investigation into the affair—were dropped, and Nimrodi's sentence was limited to a maximum eight months in prison, 10-months suspended sentence, and a NIS 1,100,600 fine.

Prosecutors explained that they agreed to a much lesser sentence for Ronen because Nimrodi was the initiator, sponsor, and beneficiary of the offenses, while Ronen "acted on [Nimrodi's] behalf, and under his orders." Nimrodi confessed to ordering wiretaps of the phones of five *Yediot Aharonot* editors and its business manager, as well as the fax machines of the market research and accounting firms employed by *Yediot*. In addition, Nimrodi admitted to paying two of the private investigators who were hired to place the wiretaps almost \$250,000 in hush money after their arrests.

Though at one time both of Israel's largest newspapers, *Yediot* and *Ma'ariv*, were under the cloud of wiretapping scandals, the case at *Yediot* seems to have been more narrowly proscribed. The editor of *Yediot*, Aharonot, Moshe Vardi, and the news editor, Ruth Ben-Ari, were both convicted of two counts of wiretapping. Vardi resigned upon his indictment, and was acquitted of ordering the wiretapping, but admitted to having listened to illegally procured tapes.

At *Ma'ariv*, however, wiretapping was used

against the newspaper's principal competitor on a widespread, deliberate and systematic basis, and was initiated by no less than the chairman of the board and editor in chief—Ofer Nimrodi.

Nimrodi compounded this gangster-like wholesale disrespect for the law, by using *Ma'ariv* to proclaim his innocence. In an August, 1995 letter addressed "Dear Readers," Nimrodi announced he was resigning as editor-in-chief and blasted those who would "defame me and my family."

He also pointed out that *Ma'ariv* "would not have achieved what it has achieved if its readers were not convinced that at [*Ma'ariv*] they receive news they can trust."

Though in legal terms wiretapping and disrupting court proceedings are serious enough crimes, it is Nimrodi's cynical exploitation of his own newspaper to advance his case that is the most serious journalistic abuse. Any reporter who knowingly printed false stories would be summarily sacked; by extension, no reputable newspaper can accept a situation in which its chairman is personally guilty of such an act.

Ma'ariv reporter Amnon Abramovich, who resigned in protest when he reportedly heard himself on one of the illegally recorded tapes, is so far the only journalist who seems to have acted responsibly by not passively accepting such actions. If Nimrodi does not resign as chairman, then he leaves current *Ma'ariv* editor Ya'acov Erez in an untenable position. Erez will have no choice but to resign himself, or else be seen as condoning the false Nimrodi letter printed on his watch.

The government has the press to hold it accountable, but the press must largely keep itself honest. In his expression of regret in court yesterday, Nimrodi made no reference to his deliberate misleading of his readers. If, as Thomas Jefferson said, "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press," we cannot afford for the press to hold itself to lower standards than it holds public officials.

The fact that there are only two mass circulation newspapers in Israel is already not a healthy thing for journalism. If one of these newspapers remains under a cloud, not only of illegality, but of a basic violation of journalistic integrity, Israeli democracy will pay a price.

Tough choices

MOSHE ARENS

The decision on the second pullback presents most Israelis with agonizing dilemmas. So why agree to a pullback? Why not stay put?

Leaving aside the diplomatic complications that would ensue from a decision by the Israeli government to reject any further redeployment, it is important to recognize that the present patchwork of areas under Israeli and Palestinian control in Judea and Samaria (areas A, B and C) is untenable in the long run, and sooner or later there will have to be a redeployment in these areas. The crucial question is what should be the scale and form of this redeployment.

Ever since Camp David, over 20 years ago, many of us have lived with the illusion that Palestinian aspirations can be adequately dealt with by granting the Palestinian population autonomy in areas that

Had this self-evident truth been apparent to those responsible for Israel's settlement policy in Judea, Samaria and Gaza during the past 30 years, it is most likely that Israeli settlements, rather than being dispersed throughout the entire area, often located in regions densely populated by Palestinians, would have been concentrated mainly in regions in which a critical mass of Israelis could have been achieved, while avoiding areas densely populated by Palestinians.

DESPITE the large-scale immigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union in recent years, expectations that the arrival of millions of Jews from the western world and from the Soviet Union would radically change the demographic balance in these areas were, unfortunately, not realistic.

The city of Ma'aleh Adumim, by

The long-term future of some isolated settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza is uncertain

will continue to be under Israeli control. But it should have been clear all along that a situation in which the Palestinians in Judea, Samaria and Gaza remain under Israeli rule without becoming citizens of Israel is inconsistent with the principles of western democracy on which the State of Israel is based, and therefore untenable.

Within the accepted norms of democracy, there is no middle ground for that population between Israeli citizenship and self-rule. Palestinians living in areas that come under Israeli sovereignty must have the option of Israeli citizenship, like Israel's Arab citizens, while those in areas not under Israeli sovereignty are entitled to self-rule.

its location in a relatively unpopulated area and by its size, has assured eventual Israeli sovereignty over the area east of Jerusalem leading to the Dead Sea. The city of Ariel, by its size and the establishment of the College of Judea and Samaria within its city limits, has assured eventual Israeli sovereignty over the surrounding area, as well as over the areas along the Trans-Samaria highway leading to the city.

The sizable settlements of Givat Ze'ev and Betar Illit west of Jerusalem, and the Gush Etzion bloc and Efrat south of Jerusalem, have similarly created unalterable facts on the ground.

The same, unfortunately, cannot be said for many small settlements dispersed throughout Judea,

Dry Bones



Samaria and Gaza in areas densely populated by Palestinians. The long-term future of some of them is uncertain.

There is no use crying over spilled milk, but it is important that future policy decisions on settlements and IDF redeployment be based on realistic estimates of the demographic realities on the ground.

Motivated by domestic political considerations, it was Yitzhak Rabin who established the principle that the first IDF redeployments in Judea, Samaria and Gaza be constrained and contoured so as to continue to maintain Israeli control

over every existing settlement, no matter how small or how isolated.

Now that we are faced with a decision regarding the second IDF redeployment, and in full knowledge that we are initiating a process that is likely to lead to the definition of Israel's permanent borders, it is essential that this constraint be subjected to close scrutiny.

It would be a mistake to abandon sparsely populated areas of strategic importance to Israel, like the Jordan Valley and the Judean Desert, in order to retain control over isolated pockets that are not likely to be within Israel's borders in future years.

Needed: a new deterrent

EPHRAIM SNEH

The acceleration of the nuclear arms race in the Indian subcontinent has a direct impact on the explosibility of the Middle East conflict. Israel, which faces difficult decisions if it wants to avoid a violent collapse of the peace process, must make strategic decisions on this issue as well.

The testing of the Pakistani bomb will speed up the pace of Iranian nuclear development. Iran, Pakistan's neighbor, now feels a sense of legitimacy for the development of a bomb of its own. Tehran is encouraged by the feeble reaction of the international community against the recent nuclear tests of India and Pakistan.

The US administration's decision to revoke sanctions against the French-based firm Total for its investment in developing oil fields in south Iran signals a clear message of softened US policy vis-à-vis the regime in Tehran. The struggle between fanatics and moderates will not be won through a democratic process, but through a revolutionary one. Waiving the sanctions against those companies that invest heavily in Iran means helping the ayatollahs' regime to feed and tranquilize the people, instead of helping the people to

topple this regime.

More international companies will now feel easier about supplying materials and hardware to the Iranian nuclear project which is only three to seven years from completion. The missile for launching a nuclear warhead will be operative by the end of next year.

tion might broke through the Israeli defense, with its troops approaching Israel's population centers.

THE ISRAELI deterrence doctrine did not take into consideration a situation in which a hostile state would have a nuclear weapon. In this case, the deterrent is no longer valid. Deterrence is only effective

The policy of nuclear ambiguity no longer provides the deterrent it once did

Since the early 1960s Israel has conducted a policy of "nuclear ambiguity." It has declined to declare what it really has, but has allowed her rivals to speculate. The objective of this ambiguity was to deter those rivals, and it worked. But this deterrence was aimed at counterbalancing the huge Arab superiority in conventional weapons. The Arab states outnumbered Israel, not only in military manpower, but in tanks, artillery, fighter planes, etc. The nuclear shadow was perceived as Israel's desperate final resort for use in the event that an Arab military coalition

as long as there is symmetry between the parties. Symmetry is essential for building a balance, a balance of deterrence.

There is no symmetry between a democratically elected government and an autocratic clerical regime. There is no symmetry in population: The population of Iran is 11 times larger than that of Israel. There is no symmetry in territory: Iran is 70 times larger than Israel. There is no symmetry in vulnerability: Most of Israel's population is concentrated in a narrow coastal strip eight miles wide and 80 miles long, an easy target for weapons of

mass destruction.

Being so vulnerable, the first strike on Israel may, for all practical purposes, be the last one. Under these conditions, a nuclear weapon in the hands of Iran (or Iraq, shortly after waiving of inspection) obliges Israel to change its strategy. The old deterrent no longer works.

Today, together with the US, Israel is developing an active defense project: The Arrow anti-missile system. But this system is not sufficient. Israel has to build another capacity—that of a long-range preemptive defense.

This decision has a high financial cost. A brave and responsible Israeli leadership is required to convince the Israeli people of its necessity. Israel can make compromises for peace, for instance giving up its control over the vast majority of the West Bank. But Israel cannot compromise the need to prevent a fanatic rival turning her into a nuclear mushroom. The international community, so mellow with Iran, has to understand this.

The writer, a retired general, is the chairman (Labor) of the Knesset State Control Committee's subcommittee for defense and military affairs.

Beyond the 13 percent solution

TEDDY KOLLEK with Amos Kollek

Nowadays, when we are endlessly debating 9 percent and 13 percent solutions, it might be worth remembering Ben-Gurion's thoughts of 31 years ago. He was talking of giving back practically everything, and eventually it will

Kippur War (even though Israel had in fact won).

That redemption enabled Anwar Sadat to make the bold move that brought him on a plane to Israel and to a speech before the Knesset in Jerusalem. A peace treaty fol-

It would be wise to remember that David Ben-Gurion favored returning almost all the territories

come to that, only with great difficulties and after heavy sacrifices. It obviously would have been much easier to do it then, before the passing of decades of occupation, the establishment of dozens of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, and before the change in Israeli politics after the Rabin assassination.

BUT IT should also be noted that history backs Ben-Gurion's point. Egypt was his fiercest enemy until it redeemed its pride in the Yom

lowed, that has held strong for 20 years now.

Even though we had given back not 11 percent or 13 percent but the entire Sinai, Egypt has not attacked us. Nor does it seem to plan to do so in the future.

To make historic changes one has to be a believer, an optimist, and be willing to take calculated risks for a long-term vision. There is always a possibility that even if we make peace with the Palestinians, we might someday face them in another war.

We have to learn to live with this. It comes with the territory of being a sovereign country in the Middle East. But so far our two peace agreements—with Jordan and Egypt—have been kept. Let us try to have a bit of faith in ourselves, in the Palestinians, and in human nature in general, and make a brave move toward peace, clearly and quickly, rather than drag our feet in an endless stalemate.

Just as Ben-Gurion rose to seize the moment in May of 1948 and declare the state, knowing full well that we would be attacked, but believing also that, against all odds, we would survive and flourish, let us believe that we can make peace and act upon it now.

We are much stronger today than we were in 1948, or at any point since, and the chances of us perishing in war are very slim. Also, it is quite clear that the majority of Israelis and Arabs do not want to fight, and all economic considerations are against war.

We should try to look, as Ben-Gurion always did, not only to the next month or year, but to decades ahead, and create a strong and peaceful Israel for the third millennium.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LAVISH WEDDINGS

Sir.—As someone actively involved in the *simha* industry, I believe Larry Derner might have given a more positive picture regarding the vast employment created by the "wedding business."

I for one give employment to at least 15 musicians who play background music during receptions while guests place their checks into the safe, and also during the six-course feast.

Derner could have emphasized the enormous turnover of money involved to the advantage of not

only the bride and groom, but also to the coffers of the State of Israel.

The printers, orchestras, the hall staff, the thousands of waiters (both professional and part-timers), florists, clothing shops, food and beverage suppliers, photographers, taxis, etc., all contribute to the economy.

Our large hotels (who are having such a bad time owing to a dearth in tourism) are brought to life with these grandiose weddings.

Weddings also give employment to kashrut supervisors, mikva

cleaners, rabbis' assistants, income-tax ambushers, VAT collectors and charity-box rattlers.

Those guests who forgot to bring their earplugs to use during the disco music create future employment for ear specialists and hearing-aid fitters.

Lavish weddings benefit many, many people. *Nifgashim B'Snachot*. Let us meet only at *simhas*.

SAMUEL LEWIS, "100 Strings" Orchestra, Herzliya.

PARKING TICKETS

Sir.—Reading about Yitzhak Sachi, who now does not have to pay any fine for ignoring 154 parking tickets, makes me wonder why his driving license hasn't been revoked.

That seems like an apt punishment for someone who doesn't use his car properly. Or, maybe he should spend a day in jail for each parking ticket, so as not to encourage others to ignore fines.

FRIEDA E. ROSEMAN

Jerusalem.

A PROPER WEDDING

Sir.—Having followed Larry Derner's accounts of Israeli weddings, I would like to make the following suggestions.

Either have the ceremony in a synagogue, where everyone is seated, or if it's in a hall, or even outdoors, have seats for the guests so that the ceremony (in my estimation the most important part of the wedding) can be conducted in quiet, solemn dignity with the reverence it deserves.

Then, eat, drink and *mazalot!*

LILY SILVER

Jerusalem.

BAR ILAN ELECTIONS

Sir.—As a Bar Ilan University student I strongly resent your comment, "the right-wing Ahim list."

As a party which focuses on being apolitical and bridging the gap between the religious and secular, such a labeling is opinion on the paper's part. If anything, the fact that the National Religious Party was included on the other list, and didn't win, serves as evidence that the Right is not as prevalent as you seem to report.

The Arabs, he said, are a proud nation and they cannot and will not make peace after such a defeat. Ben-Gurion was, in June 1967, of the opinion that we must keep all of Jerusalem as our capital, for historical and religious reasons, and as for the rest, we should give it back as quickly as possible, with the exception of very small areas needed strategically for our defense.

The implication was to make a quick peace, without allowing time to brew hatred and resentment on both sides, without allowing a habit of us being imperialist conquerors and them being the downtrodden conquered to be formed. A habit is hard to kick.

DON KATES, Director, Community Relations, Kav LaChayim

Ra'anana.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On June 19, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that the whole Yishuv was in deep mourning, while some seventy thousand people attended Dr. Arlosoroff's funeral.

25 years ago: On June 19, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported

that Italian police called upon Interpol and French police to help them in their investigation of the case of two Arabs who were injured when their car, loaded with explosives, blew up in central Rome. Seven Arab terrorists accused of blowing up the Israeli

ambassador's residence (on April 9, 1973), attempting to blow up an El Al airliner, wounding a Cypriot policeman and the illegal possession of arms and explosives went on trial in Cyprus.

Alexander Z. Zili

CAUGHT THIS on the Internet recently: a list of Jewish ice cream flavors:

Lehitra Oats
Olive Hashalom
Oy Ge-Mah
Wailing Walnut
Berry Bim Cherry Bum
Bikkie Cypriote

Mi Ka-mocha
Lemonations
Soda & Gomorra
Weizmann Institut-Fruiti
Mazlisha Nut
Af Al Pecan
Rabanut
Molishmallow
Maimonid (Rumbomb)
Bikkie Cypriote

Chazalnut
Mazel Toffee
Lubavicher Resberry
Almond Schachter
Abba Ebanana
Bernard Malamint
Cashew Le-Pessah
Kol HaVodka
Tora Sheba'al Pear
Chuppapaya

Butter Shkutz
O-lime Habab
Berry Pr'i Hagafen
Carmel Shake
Choc-Eilat Chip

(All Ben & Jewry's flavors available in Cohen, Yiddishke-Cup or Bamiid-Bar. Try the new dietary line: Yasser Ara-lowfat.)

0651001520

Boomerang Barak – critics beware

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

No question about it, Aharon Barak is Israel's most skillful politician and arguably its most powerful. If Bill Clinton is the Teflon president, Barak is the boomerang Supreme Court president.

Any intrepid soul who criticizes the judicial activism of the Barak court subjects himself to an immediate and fierce chorus of obloquy. Politicians from Yossi Sarid, eager to protect Meretz's power base in the court, to Tzahi Hanegbi, still looking for respectability as justice minister, will lecture the offender on his unfitness to serve as dogcatcher. And if he happens to wear a kippa, like Yigal Bibi, he will be told to go back to Teheran where he belongs.

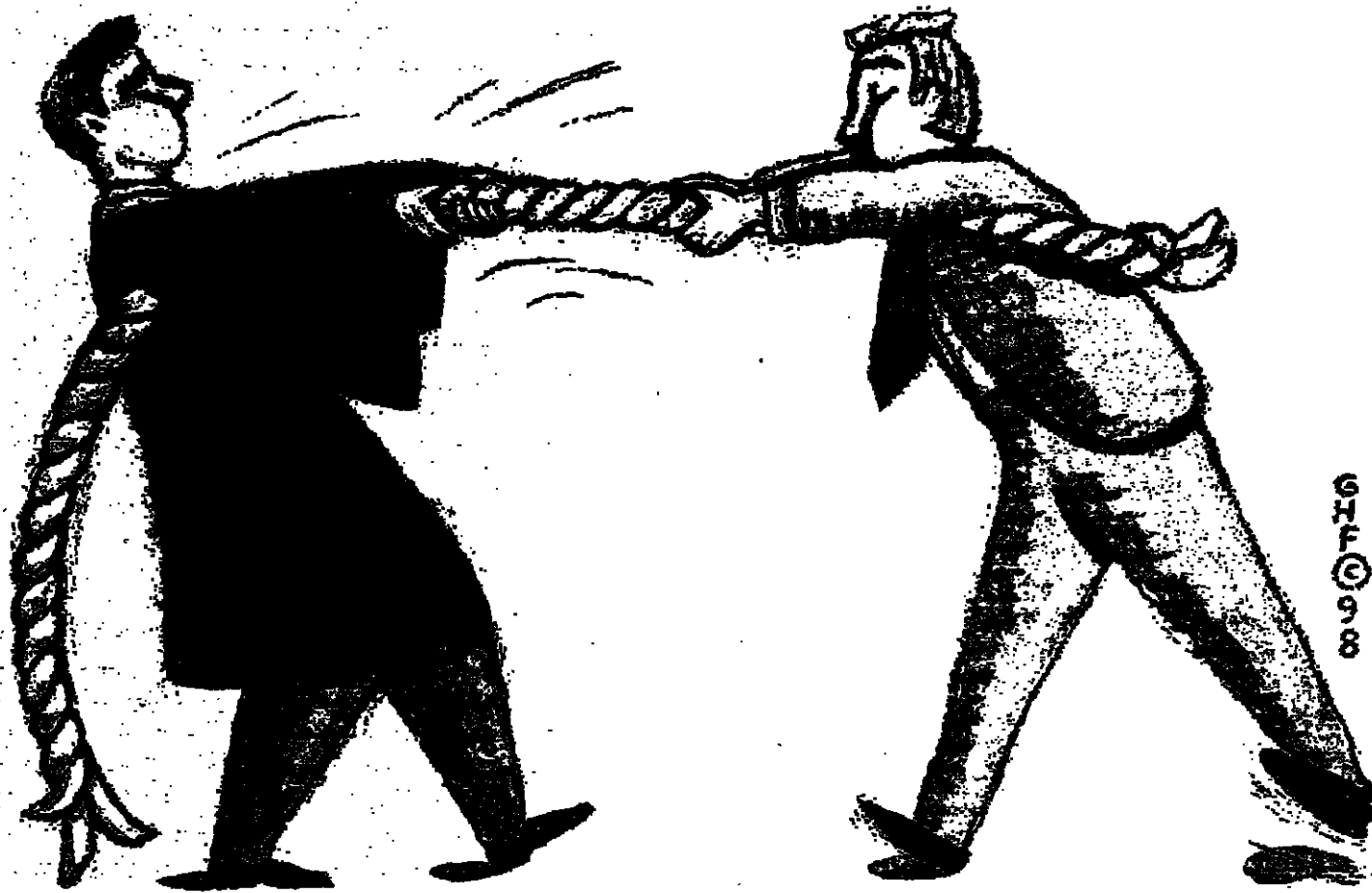
Free speech on the most crucial issues of a democratic polity is thus chilled in the name of preserving democracy. Legal commentator Moshe Negbi calls for the closure of a paper for sharply criticizing Barak's judicial activism as anti-democratic. MK Dalia Itzik (Labor) files a criminal complaint for incitement against the paper, and MK Eli Goldschmidt (Labor) introduces legislation making criticism of the court a crime.

In a truly alarming article in *Azure*, Evelyn Gordon details the hysterical reactions to challenges to the court's law-making, even as she demonstrates how rapid those challenges are compared to the daily fare in respected American journals and on the floor of the US Senate, without American democracy being thereby imperiled.

"If contempt [read criticism] of the courts is allowed, violence will surely follow," reads a recent *Post* headline, reflecting the current wisdom. Strange how those who ceaselessly repeat that mantra never concern themselves that their own vituperative attacks on the prime minister endanger him.

Wrapping himself in the mantle of "defender of democracy," Barak has succeeded completely in deflecting public awareness of precisely how radical is his judicial agenda. Yet no court in the world wields the power of the Israeli Supreme Court.

By all but abandoning traditional legal rules on who may bring a suit (standing) and what kinds of issues are proper for the court (justiciability), Barak has made it possible for any citizen to challenge any government decision, judge's liberty, or the authority of the state.



turned the court into a supra-legislature.

Indeed Barak has little interest in typical common law judging of disputes between two litigants, as opposed to serving as ombudsman over all governmental decisions. He recently counselled the parties in a suit raising the issue of whether a scholarly interpolation of a Dead Sea scroll is protected intellectual property to settle the case. Yet it is precisely such issues of first impression, in an area of law of crucial importance to an advanced technological society, that the court should be clarifying.

CRITICS of the court's jurisprudence, Barak charged recently, are ignorant bores, who fail to recognize that democracy is more than majority rule and includes "basic values and human rights." Well yes, representative government does imply certain rights – most obviously freedom of political speech (interestingly the one right afforded far weaker protection in Israel than in the US). But Barak does not attempt to

demonstrate how the various "unenumerated" rights that he feels entitled to import into the Israeli legal system are implied by the requirements of democratic government. He barely acknowledges that democracy is also a process of law-making by elected representatives, and shows no awareness of the central problem of democratic jurisprudence: the inevitable tension between judicial review by unelected judges and representative government. He is hostile to legislatures and suspicious that in pursuit of "short-term political goals, the legislature will harm fundamental democratic values."

By contrast, Moshe Landau, a predecessor as president of the court, has written that he can think of no law ever adopted by the Knesset that could be described as oppression of the minority. "More frequently, members of the political minority seek judicial review as a 'second chance' to overturn the decision of the majority."

Barak is correct that all judicial decision-making inevitably will

implicate the judges' own value system, but that is a far cry from saying that the court may impose its values in areas traditionally considered outside its ambit. The Barak court increasingly ventures into areas where none of the traditional legal materials – statutes, judicial precedent, even a properly developed factual record – exist to guide it.

Thus in a recent case, a panel on which Barak sat ordered Educational TV to air a show portraying teenage homosexuality positively without citing a single statutory provision or judicial precedent. The court did not consider – nor would it have deemed relevant – abundant evidence that for teenagers whose sexual identity is often in flux such shows will increase the incidence of homosexuality.

Such decisions represent not the rule of law, in former justice Menachem Elon's formulation, but rule of the judge. But as the court engages in naked imposition of its value system, it must confront the question: Why should a democratic society prefer the value choices of

unelected judges, chosen from an extremely narrow band of the public, over those of elected representatives?

Barak has never done so. Barak's ideal judge is guided by the views of "the enlightened society in whose midst he dwells." For him the term betokens not areas of general societal consensus, but the opinion of the cultural elite – that segment of the population "whose values are universal," which is "enlightened and progressive," and part of "the family of enlightened nations." Sound like the typical Meretz self-description?

Presumably Landau did not seek to undermine one of society's basic institutions when he warned of the Barak revolution: "Whatever the failings of representative government, the remedy will not be found in establishing an oligarchical regime – no matter how smart and wise they may be – authorized to strike down the words of public representatives in matters of law-making without being brought to account to the public from time to time in elections."

In fact, there is no more constitutional or policy logic for a referendum on redeployment than there would have been on the Hebron Agreement, the opening the Western Wall tunnel, or the start of construction on Har Homa. For some reason, a referendum was not judged to be "the price of democracy" in any of those cases.

The only possible advantage a referendum on redeployment may provide is an excuse for the prime minister to tell his right-wing coalition allies that this terrible idea is not his fault, but that of the Israeli public. And if they choose to believe that, so much the better.

But in the meantime, every delay, for whatever reason, increases the chances that some Jewish pranksters will club more Arabs to death or some Arab pranksters will knife, shoot, or bomb more Jews to death. And even if no one consciously decides to do anything, more incidents like the Tarkumya checkpoint shootings are just waiting to happen, and to escalate.

After wasting almost two years on redeployment, is it really worth wasting more time on a referendum that is totally unnecessary from a legal or political point of view?

The price of democracy

MARK A. HELLER

Should all citizens participate even in little things, like naming the head of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, or just in big things, like war and peace? Or should the distinction be between simple, straightforward things, like where to hold the next Eurovision Song Contest, or also in detailed, complicated things, like approval of the government budget?

Those who support the idea of a redeployment have no reason to fear the outcome of an honest referendum; polls consistently show that about two-thirds of the public remain committed to the Oslo Agreements and that a stable majority endorses the specific idea of a 13 percent redeployment. But there is less reason to be reassured about the prime minister's apparent willingness suddenly to entertain the idea. Redevelopment is not a major policy innovation (as the Declaration of Principles was or a peace treaty might be).

But technology will not solve the underlying political dilemmas of plebiscitary democracy: How is the question framed (and by whom), and which questions currently dealt with by elected governments or parliaments will be referred directly to the public?

OF COURSE, modern technology may make it possible to overcome the logistical complexities of organizing a referendum: once we are all wired up, we could just phone (or fax, or E-mail) our codes and votes, or press the proper button on our TVs or computer screens.

But technology will not solve the underlying political dilemmas of plebiscitary democracy: How is the question framed (and by whom), and which questions currently dealt with by elected governments or parliaments will be referred directly to the public?

Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to approve the American plan for a redeployment (which everyone insists on calling the "second" redeployment, though the first has never taken place). The latest such hint is the news that Netanyahu is investigating the possibility of a referendum in order to allow "the people" to decide. After all, say some of his spin-doctors, that is the price of democracy.

After so many false alarms, there is no reason to think that speculation about a referendum really means that Netanyahu has finally decided, or that a breakthrough is any more imminent than during his visits to London and Cairo. It is as likely as Yitzhak Mordechai, the National Religious Party, or The Third Way carrying out their threats to resign from the cabinet, or as the frenetic public relations activities by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza changing anyone's mind. Still, it does give everyone something else to talk about.

One point that does merit some consideration is the notion that this is the price of democracy. In fact, referenda are quite rare in representative democracies, notwithstanding the efforts of good government ("goo-

In an earlier and more innocent time, when it was still easy to shock people, many newspapers ran a popular column called "Strange but true" that dealt with bizarre things like calves with two heads and women who were their own grandmothers. Nowadays, such things can pass without comment. But there are still enough bizarre events in this country to justify an Israeli edition of "Strange but true."

Just this week, for example, we were treated to the following spectacles: A police raid on an illegal, right-wing radio station prompted its defenders to claim that it is being unfairly persecuted by a right-wing government; two students in a youth village in the settlement of Beit Haggai clubbed a Palestinian farmer to death and the head of the host institution described the murder as "a silly prank"; and Nahum Manbar, an Israeli businessman convicted of selling components and equipment for the manufacture of chemical weapons to Iran, claimed, in his defense, that no one told him that Iran is a hostile country.

There was one other development that received rather less attention.

For months now, there have been recurrent hints that Prime Minister

Overboard in Oslo

GERALD M. STEINBERG

While the original agreements had been vague about Palestinian compliance in assuring Israeli security, the Note for the Record explicitly included the requirement for reciprocity. The language obligated the PA to prevent "incitement and hostile propaganda," to confiscate ille-

Neither the country nor the cabinet knows what strategy, if any, the prime minister is following

gal weapons, to fight terror and prevent violence, combat "terrorist organizations and infrastructure," and insure the "apprehension, prosecution, and punishment of terrorists."

It also stipulates that the PA would complete "the process of revising the Palestinian National Covenant" (the document that calls for Israel's destruction).

IN THE MONTHS after the signing of the Hebron Agreement, however, terrorism continued, as did the regular incitement to violence on the part

of Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian leadership. Even if Netanyahu had wanted to continue with the Oslo process, after fixing the more obvious holes with respect to Israeli security interests, this experiment was unsuccessful.

This then is the background to the current long round of negotiations. Perhaps Netanyahu has given up, and is waiting for the process to run its course, attempting to minimize the damage, particularly in relations with Washington. Or perhaps, having tried and failed in the Hebron negotiations, he is now attempting to implement the lessons of Hebron by demanding far more explicit commitments on reciprocity, security, an end to terrorism, and incitement and propaganda (which, in turn, feed the terrorism).

The problem for Israelis and for the government is that there is no indication as to which of these strategies Netanyahu is following. Even his ministers do not know.

The differences are profound – if the process continues, albeit with tighter verification of security requirements and greater involvement of the United States, more land will be turned over to the PA, and the permanent-status talks will begin. This keeps the process and its implications alive, but does not

indicate how the really difficult issues of Jerusalem, Palestinian statehood, borders, settlements, water, and refugees will be solved. Unless there is a profound change in Palestinian policies, another interim agreement, no matter how well crafted, will only postpone the inevitable explosion.

On the other hand, if Netanyahu decides to end the experiment now, with the hope that a new and more serious framework can be developed in place of the flawed Oslo process, this will mean a possible violent confrontation with the Palestinians and perhaps the opprobrium of the US government. (The Europeans will also be quite upset, but given their negligible influence and the fact that they have taken pro-Palestinian positions for many years, the consequences are minimal.)

Indeed, the impression from all of the statements and actions from the Prime Minister's Office is that Netanyahu himself does not know which strategy to pursue.

The time has come to make a decision, either up or down. Without a decision, tension will increase on all sides, leading to possible domestic conflict, increased stress in the relations with the US, and a higher probability of major Palestinian violence.

Middle Israel
AMOTZ ASA-EL

In Herzl's footsteps

Having been told by statesman-philosopher Edmund Burke that a publisher's copyright should be indefinite, since he's not meant to understand the products he sells, attorney Arthur Murphy retorted: "True, some of them do deal in morality."

Ma'ariv's Ofer Nimrodi – whose plea bargain, as it surfaced in and out of court this week, unveiled a serial wiretapper who systematically lent his ear to other people's business – certainly dealt in, debased, and ultimately trampled an entire industry's morality. Yes, others before him have been convicted of this felony; none, however, industrialized it.

Eavesdropping, to be sure, is in and of itself a breach of that basic tenet of modern business: "Mind your own business." Yet this becomes sevenfold intolerable when one intrudes into the conversations of one's employees, competitors, and clients, as Nimrodi reportedly did.

The problem is even more acute considering that the confessed criminal Nimrodi continues to preside over a major media empire in our very midst.

coverage deposited a prime minister two decades ago. Back then, Yitzhak Rabin voluntarily abandoned his position of power not because of a crime, but because of a misdemeanor – and one which wasn't his own, but his wife's. How far have we deteriorated since then if the media now plays host to wrong-doers even worse than politicians?

At stake is the very soul of the Zionist enterprise's once proudly conscientious journalistic community, founded by playwright Theodor Herzl himself, and later upheld by the likes of columnists Menachem Ussishkin and Ze'ev Jabotinsky and editors Berl Katzenelson and Gershom Schocken, all of whom must now be tossing and turning in their graves.

BESIDES these moral and social concerns, the Nimrodi affair poses serious questions that transcend the media's narrow confines and touch upon this economy's overall image.

All analyses of the financial uncertainty which is now gripping much of the developed world point to the destructive power of business

The local media industry, and the National Geographic Society, must part ways with Ma'ariv's serial wiretapper

ALL TOO many Israelis like to bash the media, usually simply because they can't stand the message with which we, the messengers, innocently if tactlessly, routinely spoil their breakfast.

Here and there, to be sure, journalists do malpractice; like when voyeuristic paparazzi hassle, and even endanger, celebrities; or when writers bend the facts according to their personal views; or when editors caricature reality by doctoring photography.

When asked about these – as we often are in this frequently conservative society which still has a problem with those who expose authority nude – we note that every industry has its share of villains, like therapists who molest children, gynecologists who rape women, bankers who embezzle depositors, soccer players who sell games, contractors who build falling bridges, cops who push drugs, or retired colonels who prostitute themselves as mercenaries.

In this respect, the media is no different in having its share of scoundrels who debase their own profession. However, our case is unique since we operate in broad daylight, against the watchful gaze of an ever-scrutinizing public, which rightly expects of us a degree of morality even higher than in other industries. Indeed, in shedding light on all that we expose, ours is an inevitably binding pretension for reason, justice, law, and order.

What that must mean under the current circumstances should go without saying: Nimrodi's media holdings must be sold, and at once.

How can we, the media, seek the public's trust with a major captain of our industry having hired a former General Security Service agent to wiretap not just the editors, managers, directors, and even janitors of his main competitor, but also reportedly his own distinguished journalist Amnon Abramowitz, who quit Ma'ariv to protest these practices?

Perhaps there is something symbolic in the flight from Nimrodi's bosom, earlier this decade, of Dan Margalit, the reporter whose bold

corruption, Western Europe and the US are doing so much better than Japan and its neighbors because the latter are laden with bankers, bureaucrats, politicians, and industrialists who nonchalantly hand out bad loans, sell licenses, extort state tenders, and harass competitors.

Such a game can be a lot of fun for a few years, maybe even a decade or two, but ultimately the markets make the most of their incredible ability to sniff out fake money; and when they do, they – like wraithful prophets storming a den of idolatry – mercilessly batter the currencies, bonds, and shares which play first fiddle in such financial orgies.

Now, if this increasingly respected economy forgivingly allows a convicted felon to cast his crooked shadow over an industry as sensitive as the media, the phenomenon is likely to grow, and ultimately alarm foreign investors.

The Nimrodi syndrome must therefore be nipped in the bud for economic as well as moral reasons.

Raised in Iran – where his father was for years Israel's military attaché at the shah's court – and educated at Harvard Business School, Nimrodi could have been, and perhaps will still return to be, a leader in Israel's globalization process. A hint of that could be seen in his recent, and welcome, launch of *National Geographic's* Hebrew edition.

Unfortunately, and perhaps not coincidentally, that otherwise happy occasion coincides with this precarious juncture in the local media's history, when Nimrodi must be somehow extracted from the industry. The legal hurdles ahead of that transition are daunting, but the public ones are not. Surely, *National Geographic* with its well deserved image of innocent do-gooder, does not want Israelis to associate it with a convicted deplorable of the journalistic profession.

Ma'ariv's journalists, for very prosaic financial reasons, can usually ill-afford to face up to Nimrodi the way Abramowitz has. *National Geographic* can, by seeking a new partner for its local enterprise. Will it?

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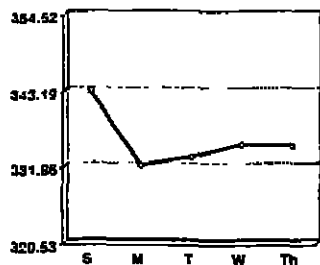
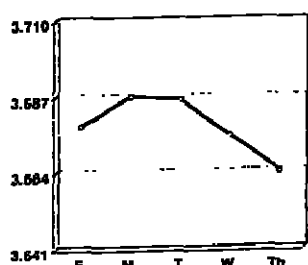
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MARKETS

in brief

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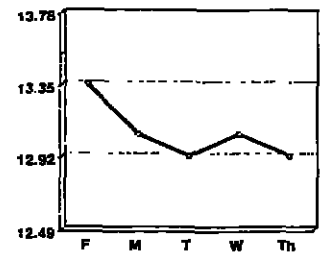
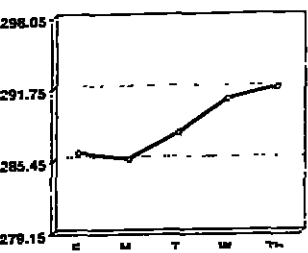


GOLD

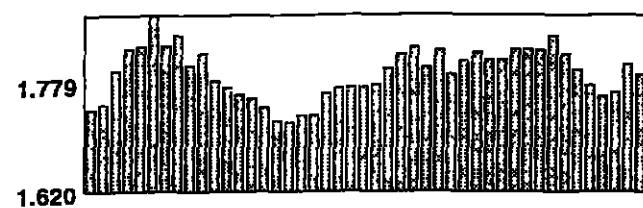
\$ per ounce

OIL

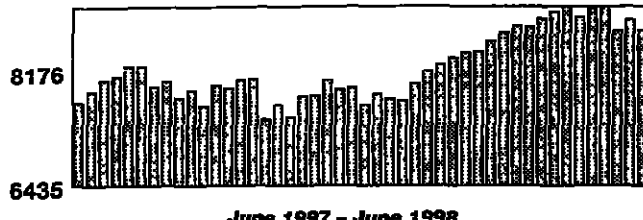
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



BITS AND BYTES

By MINA GILBERT

Emultek to make IPO this month

Emultek, a Jerusalem-based company that produces software for product development, is to make its initial public offering for 26 percent on the Nasdaq at the end of the month.

The offering was previously planned for the end of last year, but was suspended due to market conditions. The main shareholder in the company is the Belsberg family of Canada, with 38.3%, while most of the remainder is held by its cofounders, including Amir Galili and Uri Binyamin.

The company's product is Rapid Simulation, which helps cut the developing time for new products. Rapid creates virtual prototypes that are fully functional and interactive. The company, established in 1991 in the Har Hotzvim Industrial Area, has a staff of 65. Its development center is in Gush Segov in Galilee.

ECI sells \$5m. system to Singapore railway

ECI Telecom has won a \$5 million contract to supply a multimedia services system to the Singapore railway company, SMRT.

The system is to be installed as part of SMRT's internal communications network to distribute data, telephony and video across the country's railway stations. It is expected to enable the broadcast of high-quality compressed video traffic across the new SDH network, permitting the broadcast of real-time commercial advertisements on large video screens on all of Singapore's local stations.

The Petah Tikva-based company manufactures and markets sophisticated voice and data communications equipment.

Oridion Medical raises \$9.9m.

Oridion Medical has raised \$9.9m. in a private placement, in addition to \$4.2m. that it raised last September. The latest investors include Alex Brown Securities, GE Capital Giza Fund, Advent, Bankers Trust Investment Partners, Gemini Israel II, Concord Investment Partners (formerly Kardan Technology Ventures), PEC, the Challenge Fund and present company shareholders.

The 10-year-old company, based in Jerusalem's Har Hotzvim industrial park, produces non-invasive gas analyzers for measuring CO2 in exhaled breath. The procedure is widely used in intensive care units and anesthesiology.

The company has also used its core technology to develop a product line of breath analyzers for diagnosis and monitoring of the conditions of internal organs.

The capital was raised by Jerusalem Global, a high-tech investment bank also based in the park.

BIRD to aid Electric Fuel, GE bus project

BIRD, the Israel-US binational R&D fund, is to give between \$500,000 and \$1 million to help Electric Fuel of Israel and General Electric develop the first commercially viable electric bus.

The goal of the project is to develop an all electric, 90-passenger transit bus capable of operating on urban routes for an eight to 10-hour shift.

"Although the electric bus project is risky, it is the first real opportunity to commercially develop electric-powered buses and trucks. The product will make an important contribution to the environment, especially in city centers," said BIRD executive director Dov Hershberg.

The project will be conducted concurrently at Electric Fuel's Beit Shemesh plant and at the GE research and development center in the US.

Electric Fuel, established in 1991, recently completed a demonstration program with the German Postal Service. The electric vehicle was declared a technological success, but the Germans are still waiting for the mass commercial introduction of electric vehicles.

Electric Fuel develops and produces pollution-free, energy-saving batteries for electric vehicles.

EU installs Finjan protection system

The European Union's parliament has installed a system made by Finjan to protect its computers system from intrusions and damage by computer hackers via the Java and Active X Internet application languages.

The Netanya-based Finjan, established in 1996, is the first company to develop an information security system against hostile Internet applications. The company is privately owned and received a \$10 million private placement by American investors through a venture capital fund last year.

Goldman Sachs acquires 3.6% of Bank Hapoalim for \$130m.

By DAN GERSTENFELD

American investment house Goldman Sachs International purchased 3.6 percent of Bank Hapoalim yesterday for some \$130 million from the government and the Arison Group.

The Finance Ministry said that the final price would be determined only after the deal is closed, which was expected to occur last

night.

The Arison Group, which won control over Israel's largest bank last September, sold Goldman 1.8% of Hapoalim for \$65m. The deal was followed by a sale of a similar stake for the same price by the government, which exercised the 'tag along' right granted to the Treasury by the Arison Group in the selling agreement.

Meir Yacobson, general manager

of MI Holdings, the company in charge of selling the state's bank holdings, said that if the Arison Group decides to exercise its option to buy another stake of Bank Hapoalim (21.5%) the government would be left with only a "negligible" holding in the bank.

The sale underscores the interest expressed by international investment banks in the local banking sector. In April 2% of Bank Leumi

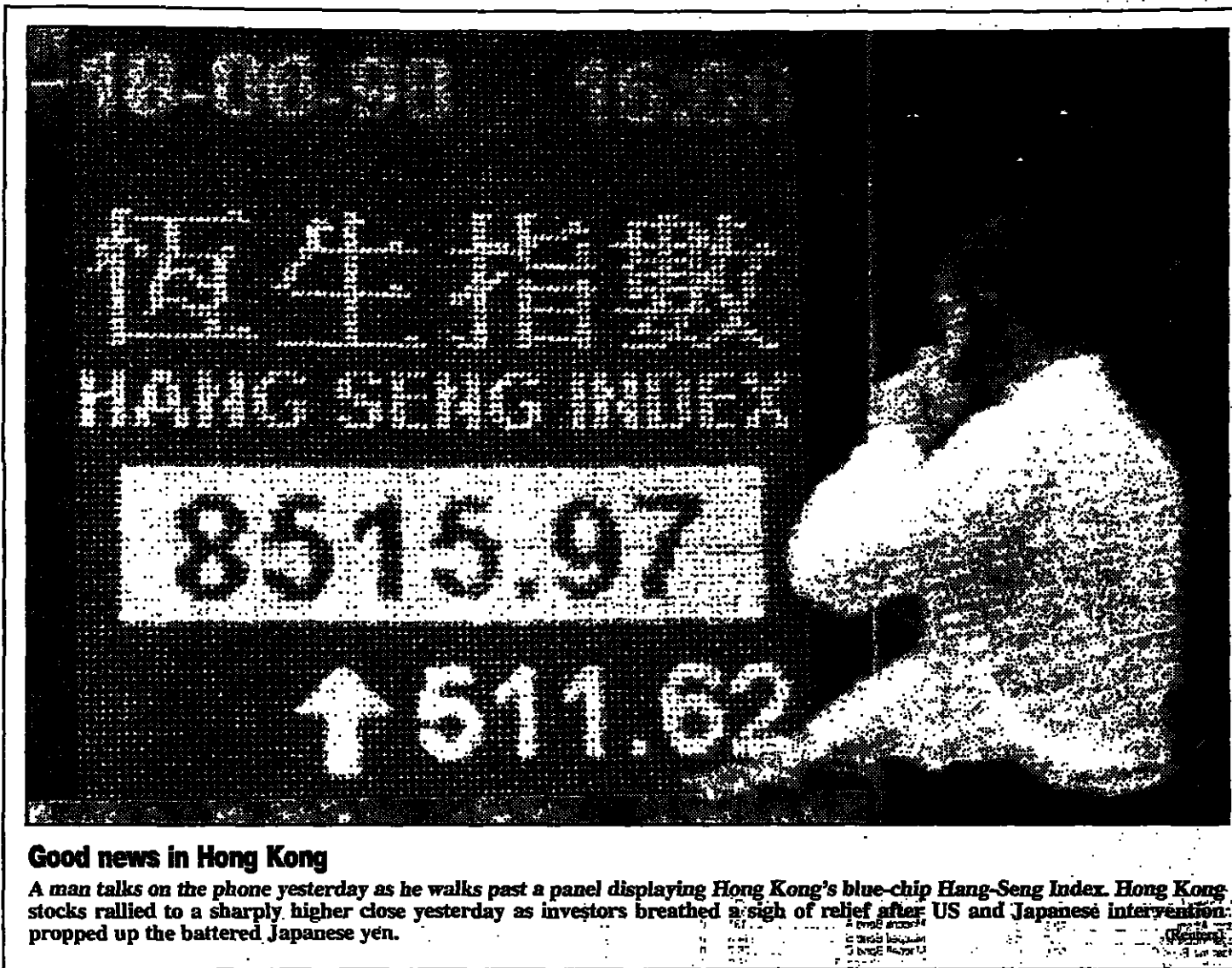
was sold to Lehman Brothers for \$52m.

Goldman, which started its activity in Israel only last March purchased 9.5% of IDB Holdings Corporation for NIS 282m. earlier this year.

Industry sources say that during the last several months Goldman has established its position as one of the most aggressive international players in the local capital

market.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said that the deal reflects the confidence of foreign investors in Bank Hapoalim, the privatization process and Israeli capital markets. He added that the involvement of foreign investors in the local banking sector and the Israel economy shows that they have faith in government in economic policy.



Good news in Hong Kong

A man talks on the phone yesterday as he walks past a panel displaying Hong Kong's blue-chip Hang-Seng Index. Hong Kong stocks rallied to a sharply higher close yesterday as investors breathed a sigh of relief after US and Japanese intervention propped up the battered Japanese yen.

Neeman: Privatize all municipal services

By DAVID HARRIS

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday called on Israel's 266 local authorities to privatize all their services.

Speaking to reporters after addressing a Milken Institute conference on municipal privatization, Neeman said "all services should be privatized. This will not happen overnight but must be done gradually."

Neeman cited the example of Indianapolis, where Mayor Stephen Goldsmith has sold off 80 local services, a move which led to lower unemployment and taxes.

The minister added that taxes, particularly on industry, are currently unreasonably high, and

hiv- ing off public services will help ease this problem. "If we want our country to flourish we must reduce the [tax] burden."

Before councils begin selling off their assets, the number of municipalities must be dramatically reduced, he said. The minister added that it is absurd that for almost every secular council there is a parallel religious council.

In the near future a report will be published making recommendations for the rationalization of the local government system.

"I hope Israel will agree to the need for change in the provision of services by reducing the number of municipalities - after all, who pays for this? The citizen," said Neeman.

In most of the world mayors successfully manage their cities, however, in Israel the picture is very different, he said. Neeman presented the example of Jerusalem's eight deputy mayors as underscoring inefficiencies in the domestic municipal framework. Additionally, 90 percent of councils have accumulated debts.

"The first stage to privatization is merging local authorities," said the minister. Once that step is implemented, among the first services that could be privatized are psychological aid, legal advice and revenues departments, "leading eventually to the privatization of essential services."

Admitting that central government must lead by example, the

finance minister noted the recent decision to sell 49% of El Al. Asked if he agreed with Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom's view that this is where El Al's sale should end, Neeman said "We'll start with 49%. Let's see how it progresses."

He also promised to introduce a series of privatizations of "services to citizens provided by the government."

Spectralink wins \$22m. deal with US Navy

By STEVE RODAN

Tadiran Spectralink has signed a \$22 million agreement to supply its air crew rescue system to the US Navy.

The Holon-based company will supply its ELT and PLBVT systems that function on international distress beacon frequencies to help locate downed air crews.

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Spectralink executives said the system includes advanced satellite communications and Global Positioning Systems technology adaptable to the year 2000.

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The NRP's withdrawal symptoms

To stay in the government – or leave? That is the dilemma facing the party as the prospect of a redeployment nears.
Herb Keinon reports

The right wing of the National Religious Party and the leadership of the settlement movement have adopted a simple strategy to fight a second-stage withdrawal from the territories: make noise.

The idea is to make so much noise that at some point the prime minister will in desperation place his hands over his ears and plead, "Stop the racket, I'll do as you say."

Seen in this light, the threat by some in the NRP to quit the government is little more than noise-making. Likewise the declarations by former chief rabbis that the NRP will have to leave the government; the establishment of another right wing party; the whippers of an additional right wing prime ministerial candidate; and a massive protest campaign to be launched by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

The more noise and the greater the cacophony, the better. The idea is to create an atmosphere of crisis, to generate a feeling that a second withdrawal would usher in utter political chaos.

"It's all part of the game," said one senior NRP source. "It's all part of the pressure until a decision is made on the withdrawal. But it says nothing about what will happen after the withdrawal."

The debate wracking the NRP, according to this source, is not how the party will vote on the pullback, but rather how it will act afterwards.

"The NRP will never support a withdrawal, any withdrawal, whether it is six, nine, 12, 13 or 15 percent," the NRP official said. "The question is what should be done once the decision to withdraw has been taken."

There are three schools of thought on this question. The first, the school of the ideological purists, says the party should say now that if there is a pullback of any dimension, it will leave the government the next day.

Another school recommends that the party threaten to leave the coalition in an attempt to pressure Netanyahu, but actually make its final decision about quitting only after a pullback decision is reached.

Once the cabinet decides on the withdrawal, this reasoning runs, it will be clear what the package contains, and whether it includes elements such as the extradition of Palestinian terror suspects, the abolition of the PLO covenant, or US financial incentives, which would substantially sweeten the deal and make it easier to swallow.

Both schools advocate making a lot of angry noise now, in the hope that fears of a possible government collapse will deter Netanyahu from going ahead with the agreement.

The third school in the NRP argues that the party should not threaten to leave the coalition and that it should remain in the gov-

ernment to enable it to fight for the best terms in a pullback agreement from within.

THAT NAMES such as Hanan Porat, Zvi Hendel and Nissan Slomiansky are firmly entrenched in the school advocating leaving the government comes as no surprise. But that Transportation Minister Shaul Yahalom, one of the party's most caustic critics of the government in its first few months, is among those who advocate working from within, has raised more than a few eyebrows.

It was Yahalom who, during the debate over the scope of the first withdrawal last March, called on the party at various times to leave the coalition or to find another candidate for prime minister.

At the time he found himself in opposition to the late education minister Zevulun Hammer, who had stressed that, considering the alternatives, the Netanyahu government is the best the party could hope for.

Several months later, Yahalom has adopted Hammer's viewpoint. "I am the same hawk I have always been," Yahalom said. "But I am a politician. We are not dealing here with ideology. From an ideological perspective I have the same ideology and goals."

"But from a political perspective there is a difference between whether I fight against a government that I want to change, and believe there is a chance that a better government will take its place; and whether I fight inside the government, because I realize that every alternative is worse," he continued.

Yahalom is convinced that any option besides the present cabinet would only be worse. According to Yahalom, Netanyahu is set on signing an agreement for a second-stage withdrawal.

"He is going to sign the agreement," he said. "But this is the best government we can get, so we have to fight to limit the damage, to minimize the withdrawal, to demand reciprocity, to demand that the settlements won't be endangered."

"If we stand on the side, we are not going to prevent the agreement, and we will also have no part in making adjustments in the agreement, and in limiting its damage," he added.

Yahalom said that if the NRP brings down the government, either new elections would be called or a national unity government would be formed.

If new elections are called, he predicted, "Netanyahu will campaign while showing that he tried to further the peace process, that he minimized the accord's damage, and that he stood firm against the US."

In such a situation, he could win the elections and we could end up with less leverage than we have now, said Yahalom.

"The second possibility," Yahalom continues, "is that



Pressure tactics: 'Netanyahu, you have no mandate for a withdrawal' read the posters plastered all over Jerusalem.

(Ariel Jerolimski)

[Ehud] Barak will win and those conducting the negotiations will be Barak, [Yossi] Beilin, [Yossi] Sarid and [Abdul Wahab] Darawshe. This is even worse. The third alternative is a unity government. While a national unity government has benefits on other issues, in this matter it would not be good for us."

Slomiansky argued that Yahalom should keep his views about staying in the government no matter what, to himself.

"He should just be quiet now. What good does it do to say from the outset that you are going to stay in the coalition. By doing this you are removing any threat," Slomiansky said.

THE NRP politicians are not alone in debating what to do in the event of a pullback. Leading rabbis affiliated with the national religious camp have also come out in recent days with divergent views on the issue.

In various meetings with the prime minister, members of the Land of Israel Front, NRP MKs, former chief rabbis Avraham

Shapira and Mordechai Eliahu, have reportedly said that the NRP would quit the cabinet in the event of a withdrawal.

But, one aide close to Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said it is important to note that the rabbis have not spoken out publicly, confining their remarks to the realm of small, closed forums.

"No one has heard Rabbi Eliahu say explicitly that the NRP will leave the government if there is a withdrawal," the aide said. Eliahu's public silence is particularly significant for Levy, who is in constant and close consultation with the rabbi.

"Levy has a position, but he is not revealing it right now," the aide said. "It will surprise you."

While the public perception is that Shapira and Eliahu would advocate leaving the government, other rabbis, foremost among them, Rabbi Shlomo Aviner, the chief rabbi of Beit El, have come out in favor of remaining in the coalition. In their view, the alternative – a Labor-led or national unity government – would be worse.

That there are divergent rab-

binical opinions is significant. The NRP, unlike Shas or United Torah Judaism, has long been torn by the dilemma of how much weight to give rabbinical opinions in political decision-making. The party's constitution

The debate wracking the NRP is not how the party will vote on the pullback, but rather how it will act afterwards

states explicitly that the decision on whether to join or leave a government should be made by its central committee.

Granted, the opinions of Shapira and Eliahu have influence over the committee members, but if other top flight rabbis – such as Aviner – advocate a different position, then committee members would feel

that they can vote to remain in the government without betraying Eretz Yisrael.

While the NRP is struggling with the question of how best to put pressure on Netanyahu, others in the national religious camp are doing their best to influence the NRP to toe an ideologically pure line.

IN RECENT weeks a new organization, Tekuma, has been established, reportedly with money from American millionaire Irving Moskowitz. The group is headed by settlement activists Uri Ariel, Rabbi Menachem Felix and Ya'akov Katz.

"If the prime minister decides on a withdrawal from territory in the homeland, and if the NRP doesn't prevent the withdrawal, there will be no government, no NRP, but for Israel there will be Tekuma [the Hebrew word for revival]," read an advertisement run in newspapers in recent weeks.

"We believe that the NRP could prevent the tragedy [of withdrawal] by making it clear that it will leave the government," said Felix of Eilon Moreh. "The prime min-

ister's considerations are not only diplomatic, but also political."

Felix said that he is not scared by those who say that any alternative to Netanyahu would be worse for the settlements.

"The dangers of a withdrawal being considered by this government are so great that it is difficult to scare me by saying that the risks under a different government will be greater," he said.

According to Felix, a pullback would lead to a Palestinian state, which is exactly the same thing a Labor government would lead to. The NRP, Felix explained, is debating how much pressure to put on Netanyahu in part because "it has become enamored of the cabinet posts."

"Or perhaps it has to do with the experience of being four years in the political desert, and not getting benefits from being in the government, not receiving money for their institutions," Felix said.

"Maybe it is afraid of going back into the political wilderness, because the NRP is not only a political movement, it also has educational institutions that it has to support."

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Will the 'jubilee generation' stand up?

A major survey of Israeli youth conducted for the 50th anniversary reveals a buoyant optimism mingled with disturbing uncertainties.

Thomas O'Dwyer gets behind the statistics

Crabbed age and youth cannot live together; youth is full of pleasure, age is full of care," said William Shakespeare.

Youth now has inherited its share of cares in our modern world, not least in Israel. While the long trek of Jewish youngsters "from Masada to Goa" apparently has left them in Jubilee Year full of optimism, ambition, and self-confidence, there is no small measure of confusion about who they are and what is the future of the land they live in. Experts blame attacks on old Israeli certainties by post-Zionist academics and religious anti-Zionists for disorienting the young people.

"Between Masada and Goa" was the title of a large academic con-

Center for Israeli Studies and the German Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, and carried out by the Israeli Institute for Economic and Social Research.

A total of 1,618 young Israelis (405 of them non-Jews) spanning the social spectrum and the country were asked to respond to a detailed questionnaire.

Some academics drew startling conclusions from the results of statistics - including a view that Israel is a thief of

One academic after another said the apparent fragmentation of our traditional structures - and much of the confusion of our youth - point starkly in the same direction: great country, lost leadership; great kids, no leadership.

If they had a choice, 71% of Jews and 62% of Arabs said they would opt again to be born and live in Israel. As for goals for the nation, both Jewish and Arab youngsters listed living in peace with neighbors, democracy, and political equality in first second and third places - ahead of prosperity. Only Jews were polled on the lasting effects of the Rabin assassination. Some 51 percent of Orthodox youth and 66 percent of secular youth said it was "a watershed that has shaken my faith in the state." A further 7% of Orthodox and 13% of secular Jews took it more seriously, "as if I've lost my country." (Traditional Jews polled percentages in between.)

As the statistics unfurled it became clear that they revealed a startling picture of optimism, patriotism, family values, duty and ambition among Israel's oft-maligned youth. The favored role model is not national heroes nor modern celebrities, but Dad for boys, Mom for girls.

These youngsters are alienated from nobody. But politicians and rabbis are severely alienated from them. These are young Israelis who can scarcely conceive of living anywhere else. They feel safe here, and believe they can fulfill all their personal ambitions in the state. They have towering respect for the IDF, the police and the courts. They think the top military brass deserve their high social status, that the highly educated deserve much more status, and that the rich and the politicians are in chronic need of social

demotion. "They don't want to change the world, they want to integrate," said Yuchman-Ya'ar, who helped interpret the figures. "If you favor social integration, this is optimistic. If you expect youth to lead a new revolution, it isn't."

But old-time Zionists at the conference fretted about the sizable minority of social pessimists in modern youth. "Not in my day!" they bemoaned. "There were some conventions," said craggy poet Haim Guri. "Hebrew labor, Hebrew language, Hebrew defense. It was so instilled it was totally accepted."

"One of the most interesting points of this survey," said Guri, "raises doubts about all the optimism." This lot are so smug about themselves, Guri went on, that 30 percent of them have no vision of the future of the state. "Where is the song of the future in their hearts?" he asked.

"Unheard of in the past," he grumbled. "The builders of the walls were not Thais and Romanians... What we wanted, as Uri Zohar said before he went mad [turned haredi], was a small house, a small car, and lots of small change."

SO WHO ARE these youth? More importantly, who do they think they are?

The Central Bureau of Statistics says there are one million young persons between the ages of 15 and 24 living in Israel. Their relative size in the population has been a stable 17.5% since the 1980s. The percentage of youth within the total non-Jewish population is also steady at 20.5%.

The most important aspect of young people's personal identity is national and Zionist identity, according to the survey. Of significantly low importance to them is their Left-Right political identity or Ashkenazi-Mizrahi ethnicity. Asked to choose between having a state that is democratic and has peace, or one which is Jewish, most chose the former.

Arab Israeli youth prefer to identify itself similarly by nationality, but as Arab - pan-Arab - rather

than Palestinian. Researchers said this reflected the poor status of Palestinians in foreign Arab cultures, and the desire of the Arab minority to raise their cultural status to a pan-Arab one, although they value Israel as a place to live and fulfill their ambitions almost as highly as Jewish youth do.

Dr. Irit Keynan, Rabin Center director-general and chief organizer of the conference, said what is important in the survey is that Israeli youth are somewhat confused about their identity.

"They don't know if they are Jews, Israelis or Zionists, they're not sure what it means," she said in an interview. "The word Zionist has lost its meaning; they don't know what it is."

"About the same percentages

The professor called it disturbing that the youth survey once again revealed the secular-religious rift as the most serious conflict endangering the state - far more so than the Arab-Israeli one, in the youngsters' opinions.

WHAT ALSO emerged clearly was the overriding preoccupation of young people with personal goals, rather than social ones.

The most important goal in life for youth is to raise a happy family (95% for Jews and Arabs). Next is to make close friends (over 90% of both), to succeed economically (84% Jews, 75% Arabs) and acquire higher education (high 80s, both). Some 78% of Jewish youth agreed on the importance of "giving the

Yitzhak Sadeh Prize for her book *Starvation Hasn't Died: Eretz Israel Emissaries in the German Camps 1947-48*, was not carried away by the optimism either.

"These young people need leadership, and they don't have it," she said. "They are pessimistic about the State of Israel," despite the conference speakers' messages of optimism, of love of the IDF, and of self-confidence.

"The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin made them deeply insecure about the future, about the stability of Israeli society, and they don't have the solution. They voted no confidence in the Knesset and political parties."

"It is very interesting how they voted [on the questionnaires]. They have confidence in the courts, the army and the police - the army was far beyond everyone else, in the 80 percent, but the courts and the police also rated over 70. Now those three institutions were not involved in the political chaos before the assassination; they were not, of course, involved in the incitement."

"But the Knesset and the parties did nothing but fight each other, and nobody stopped the incitement - so it's no wonder only those three institutions earned so much confidence. They were above it all; they were the only ones taking care of this state and its children."

Keynan strolled pensively through the conservatory garden after the conference.

"During the week of mourning for Rabin," she said, "I felt like I was going crazy. I said someone, some adult, should go up there and give these kids something to cling to. Someone should take them, and lead them, because they will disappear, and it will be our fault. 'It is our fault. We didn't lead them, we gave them nothing. They cannot lead themselves.'"

"So you think the 'candle children' have disappeared?" I asked. "I don't think they've disappeared, but they have..." She waved her hand over the garden, searching for the right English word... "Dispersed!"



ference held this week before a packed auditorium in Tel Aviv's Arison Music Conservatory. Its purpose was to mark the 50th anniversary year by presenting one of the most comprehensive scientific surveys ever of the values, attitudes and aspirations of Israeli youth.

These are the descendants of the Roman exile who have become the backpackers of far-flung corners of the globe, but the survey also fully included Israeli Arabs. It was sponsored by the Rabin

youth, a place that obliges kids to move swiftly from childhood to young adulthood.

One of the most surprising findings of the research was "no finding," said an opening speaker, Prof. Ephraim Yuchman-Ya'ar of Tel Aviv University. He meant that in the two key age-groups studied, 15-18 and 21-24, virtually no change in attitudes is taking place.

"This seems to say that neither biology nor military service changes attitudes," Yuchman-Ya'ar observed.

cians and rabbis are severely alienated from them.

These are young Israelis who can scarcely conceive of living anywhere else. They feel safe here, and believe they can fulfill all their personal ambitions in the state. They have towering respect for the IDF, the police and the courts. They think the top military brass deserve their high social status, that the highly educated deserve much more status, and that the rich and the politicians are in chronic need of social

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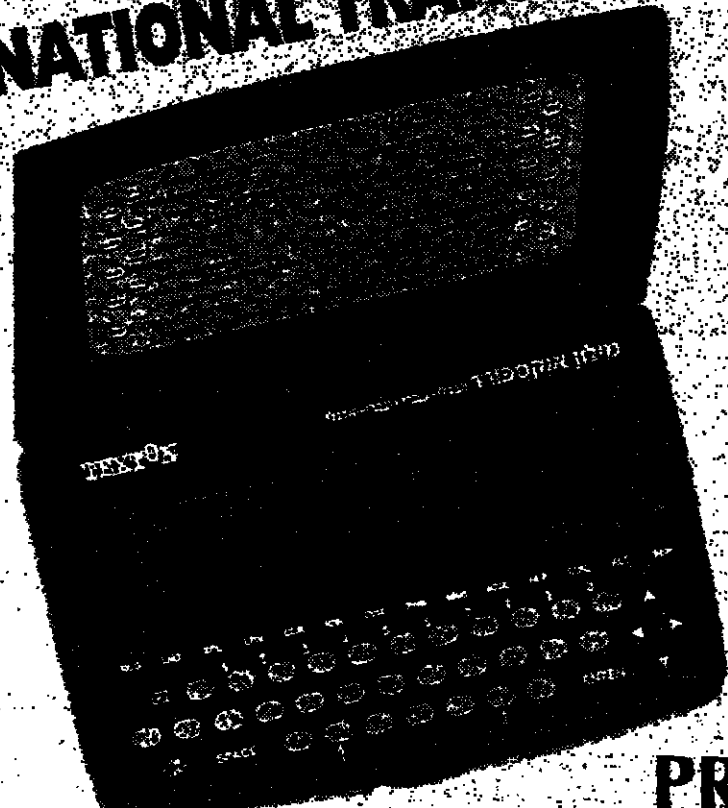
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Conversion: a personal story

Tal's father, 43-year-old Michael Magen, has a battle to fight — one of many in a personal struggle to register his daughter as a Jew despite the state-sanctioned Orthodox monopoly on conversions.

Magen's struggle began on November 22, 1996, when the Israel Museum art conservator and his wife, Ora, adopted nine-month-old Tal in Guatemala. The couple had Tal converted in a Reform ceremony in London, England, but Interior Minister Eli Suissa refused to recognize the conversion and would not register the baby as a Jew.

Unlike many other parents of adopted children who challenged Suissa in court, then bowed to his demands for an Orthodox conversion the Israeli-born Magens say they will not surrender to what they perceive as the Orthodox Establishment's arbitrary will.

"We knew from the beginning that we did not want an Orthodox conversion," said Magen. "We aren't religious. We didn't want to get trapped in a morass of lies, hypocrisy and evasions because of what they would demand of us. We wanted to convert the baby, but the rabbis are out to convert the entire family. They demand that you observe Shabbat and kashrut and give your child an Orthodox education. And then they check to see that you keep your word."

The couple's conviction has pitted them against a formidable rival, but Magen tells his story without a trace of pathos, in an understated, sardonic manner laced with humor.

The Magens' battle officially began on May 13, 1997, when they petitioned the High Court of Justice, asking the judges to order Suissa to recognize Tal's conversion and register her as a Jew.

The Magens did not expect to have trouble registering Tal. In the wake of a landmark High Court case in 1989, the Interior Ministry had automatically registered dozens of adopted Israeli children who had been converted abroad by Reform and Conservative rabbis. But the ministry changed its policy in 1996, after formulating a new and more rigid interpretation of the High Court's 1989 ruling.

Currently, the Magen petition is the only one involving an adopted baby before the High Court after all 12 of the Conservative-Na'amat petitioners seem to have dropped out of the struggle. But the Magen case is different than the others. The Conservative-Na'amat petition challenged the Interior Ministry's refusal to register children converted in Israel by more liberal Jewish movements, while the Magen petition challenges the Interior Ministry's refusal to register a child converted by these movements abroad.

MAGEN SAID that after the anxious and painful years of waiting for a child, he and his wife chose the Reform conversion because they were attracted to the movement's humane approach, as opposed to the allegedly inflexible and insensitive attitude of the Rabbinate.

"The Reform rabbis performed the conversion with dignity and respect as opposed to the Orthodox conversion, which tramples and chews you up because they don't care about your opinions or the way you live," said Magen.

In describing his struggle to have Tal registered as a Jew, Magen repeatedly emphasized the Reform movement's humane approach, as opposed to the allegedly inflexible, insensitive attitude of the Rabbinate.

While other petitioners have quietly agreed to Orthodox conversions for their adopted children, one couple steadfastly refuses. Dan Izenberg talked to the Magen family



The Magens — Michael, nine-month-old Tal and Ora: 'We wanted to convert the baby, but the rabbis are out to convert the entire family.'

(Sarit Uziel)

The tale of Tal's adoption started several years ago, when the Magens decided they wanted to have a second child. But, despite fertility and hormonal treatments Ora was forced to undergo two abortions. Finally the couple decided to adopt.

Once again, they underwent a tortuous process, this time at the hands of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

"We had to face a series of committees and interviews," said Magen. "All the time I felt I was in one big group therapy session. Each time I had to talk about myself, prove myself, show them how my things are and what a happy life we lead."

Finally, the ministry said that the Magens could adopt a child of three or four, not the infant they desired. The reasons given were that the couple was too old — Ora was 43 and Michael 39 — and that they already had a biological son.

But the Magens had their hearts set on a baby. So, when they came across an American Jewish lawyer who arranged Guatemalan adoptions, they decided to take the plunge.

"It was emotionally complicated," said Magen. "On the one hand, you see a photo of the baby and the baby seems so distant. On the other, you tend to get attached to the photo, to feel very close to it."

In the Magens' case, the procedure was even more complicated, because their first choice of a baby did not work out and they had to start again.

"We felt frustrated," he recalled. "All of a sudden you have to switch the file off, press the delete

button." The process took eight months, and the wait was nerve-racking.

"Thank God for e-mail. I call this a Windows 95 adoption. Via e-mail, I screamed at my lawyer,

begged him for more information and followed developments," Magen said.

Before they were through, the Magens had sent 22 notarized documents to Guatemala attesting to their income, their property, their jobs and the fact that they did not have criminal records. The notary's seal eventually broke from over-use, Magen recalled dryly.

FINALLY, the big day arrived and Ora flew to Guatemala to fetch Tal. Ten days later, Magen drove to the airport to pick up mother and daughter.

"It was the only time I ever had to stop five or six times on my way to the airport to let out my emotions," he recalled.

Ora then flew to a Reform congregation in London to convert Tal. According to Ora, the ceremony in London was "dignified, respectful and nice." The rabbis asked her how she and her husband observed Judaism and how they viewed Jewish identity and Jewish education. After the discussion, Ora immersed Tal in the mikve.

Armed with the Reform congregation's conversion certificate, the Magens went to the Ministry of Interior to register Tal as Jewish. For four months, nothing happened. Every official they spoke to said Tal could not be registered at that time.

The procrastination infuriated Magen. But even now, more than a year later, as many other families give in and accept an Orthodox

'People aren't out to lie'

Rabbi Haim Druckman, who has fashioned solutions for various families that led to their accepting an Orthodox conversion, explained that his success is based on establishing mutual trust.

"These things can't be reduced to a formula which I can give to a newspaper," he said. "I think it is possible to convert to families who do not have children of their own, and have gone through so much in the process of deciding to adopt, that they should do a bit more to guarantee the child's well-being. I don't have a miracle formula. But if my approach is humane and based on good will, I believe it's possible to find a way."

Druckman believes that many parents of adopted children do not see the entire picture surrounding conversion and can be convinced to accept the Orthodox way if approached with sensitivity and thoughtfulness.

"I can tell them that a child who is adopted and wants to become an integral part of Israeli society and the Jewish nation and be accepted by all sectors, must undergo an Orthodox conversion," he said.

"Anyone with professional understanding knows it is in the



Rabbi Haim Druckman: logical or lenient? (Brian Hecker)

child's best interest not to feel like an outsider."

Michael Magen, who is fighting the Interior Ministry to gain recognition for his adopted daughter Tal's Reform conversion, accused the rabbi of forcing secular parents to lie in order to have their children converted in an Orthodox ceremony, Magen said.

secular parents must promise to live an Orthodox life, even though the rabbis know the parents have no intention of actually doing so. "I don't want anyone to lie and I don't force anyone to do any-

thing they don't want to do," Druckman countered. "I don't think the parents have to undergo a total upheaval in their lifestyle, but they must consider the education and lifestyle of the child. That doesn't mean the parents should necessarily drive to the beach on Shabbat and leave their child behind. Maybe they can find a way to drive to the beach on some other day of the week, and take the child with them."

There are some who say that Druckman's success is more about leniency than logic, patience or soft talk. The difference, they claim, is that the regular rabbinical courts demand that three neighbors testify that the family is observing religious law, and even send their own investigator before consummating the conversion.

Druckman, they say, simply takes the family's word of honor. "I think that with my humane approach, a true bond is formed between the parents and myself which continues after the conversion has been completed," he said. "People see that I really want what is good for them, and a true human and Jewish bond is formed. I don't believe they are out to deceive me."

-D.I.

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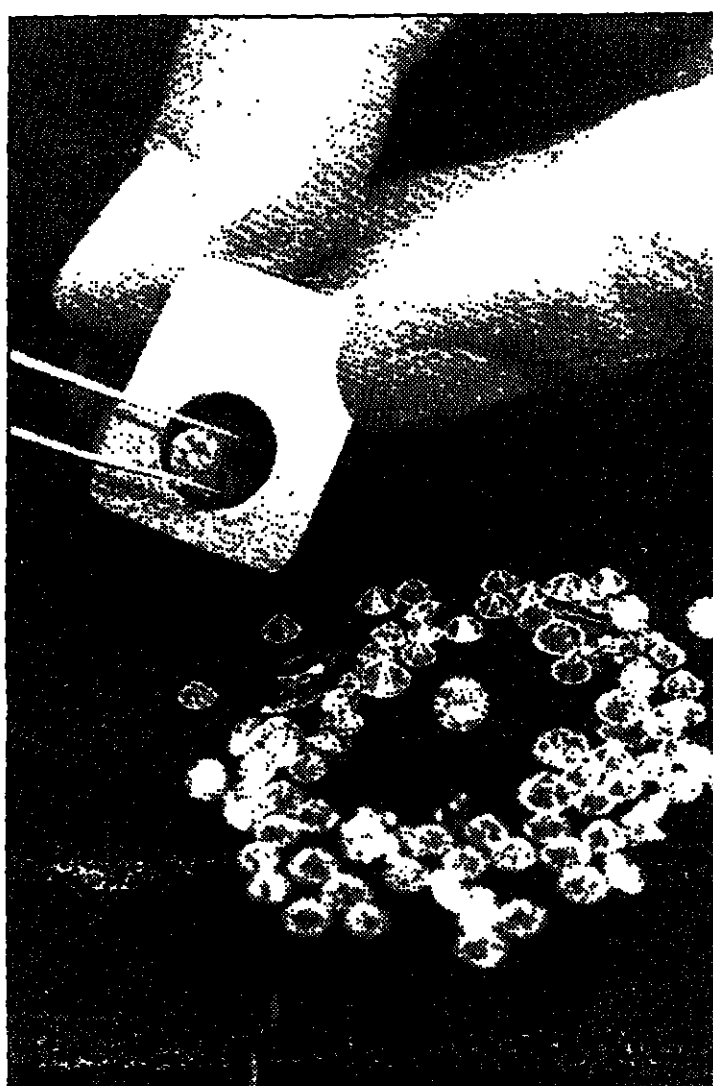


The facets of bilateral relations: diamonds account for 60% of Israel's exports to Japan.

(Shimon Fuchs)



Mitsubishi unveils a new model jeep: Japanese vehicles, already popular in Israel, may become slightly cheaper in another three to six months. (AP)



The diamond industry will be hardest-hit by the Japanese recession. (R. Nowitz)

When an economy loses its sparkle

During a year that is already considered an economic write-off — growth in 1998 is expected to be as low as one percent — news of Japan's recession was greeted with apprehension and uncertainty.

Still, there was some hope that Japan's economic problems would encourage Japanese companies to seek out joint projects with Israeli hi-tech firms.

Last Friday, the Japanese government officially announced a recession following two successive quarters of negative growth. In all, the Japanese economy is now contracting at an annual rate of 5.3%.

As trading resumed Monday around the globe, markets from Tel Aviv — where the Nasdaq index shed 3.3% of its value — to Wall Street — where the Dow Jones industrial average lost nearly 2.3% — reacted with alarm that was best expressed by the yen's plunge to a eight-year low of 146.14 to the dollar.

"The situation in Japan comes at a bad time for Israel, which is also suffering from a slowdown," said Federation of Chambers of Commerce Asia director Mandy Barak.

Israel's diamond industry was likely to be hardest hit by the recession in Japan.

Since January, exports to Japan dropped 26%, 16% excluding diamonds.

"Japan is one of the Israeli dia-

The Japanese recession was dismal news for Israel's diamond traders, but some analysts think it may bring a boon to local hi-tech. Nina Gilbert reports

mond industry's main markets," said Tzafir Inbar, the Industry and Trade Ministry's diamond controller.

"There are many dealers who deal exclusively with Japan who are leaving the business, and many diamond businesses have closed down," he added.

Diamond trade amounts to about 60% of Israel's exports to Japan, and other exporters are less likely to be hurt by the Japanese crisis, said Amir Hayek of the Israel Export Institute.

Altogether, less than 5% of Israel's total exports go to Japan, and while analysts believe sales will drop, the Bank of Israel is not pronouncing doom.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, while urging economic policy-makers to act cautiously, was doubtful this week that the Japanese recession would have a significant impact on the Israeli economy.

In addition to diamonds, Israel exports machines, electronics, chemicals and medical equipment to Japan.

In 1997, Israel shipped \$1.02 billion worth of goods to the

island nation, a drop of 16.7% from 1996 that was caused primarily by a reduction in diamond exports.

The recession in Japan could create a window of opportunity for greater Israel-Japanese ties

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky

Despite the expected losses in sales, some economic officials and players say that Israel stands to benefit from the Japanese crisis.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky expected the recession to spur Japanese interest in strategic partnerships and pre-

dicted that a "window of opportunity" would open for greater Japanese-Israeli ties.

"The Japanese will always look for technologies at home and abroad and Israel is an unending source of new technologies," agreed Hayek, of the Israel Export Institute.

Zohar Zisapel, president and founder of RAD Data Communications and chairman of the Israel Electronics Association, predicted that Japanese firms would seek out Israeli companies as soon as they understood the extent to which Japan lags behind in communications technology.

"The Japanese defeated the world in many consumer products, but they did this in the industrial field, while the world is now moving into a post-industrial era — into the information age," Zisapel said.

"They must catch up with the United States in the fields of Internet and communications," he added. "The Japanese can't maintain their standard of living based on televisions and video recorders."

He said that although the Japanese may have less money

now, they may still invest in technology.

However, Barak, of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, was less optimistic, saying he expected a drop in investments from Japan.

In times of uncertainty, he said, investments are likely to move away from rising markets, such as Israel, and go to the United States or bond markets instead.

Whether or not the Japanese crisis will result in a boost in investment, consumers here do stand to benefit from the devaluation of the yen.

Japanese imports, from cars to television sets to radios, may become cheaper. However, this is not expected to happen overnight.

Ilan Dafnai, CEO of Mitsubishi Israel, said he does not expect car prices to drop for at least three months, when new price negotiations were planned.

Sony's national sales manager, Ilan Greenboim, said the influence of the drop in the yen's value would be marginal and that any price change would take about six months.

In any case, Israel can expect an influx of Japanese imports, according to the Federation of Chambers of Commerce. "More products will be available at attractive prices, including cars and consumer products," said Barak.

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The win that shocked

Australian Jews are worried about the rise of ultra-nationalism, David Bernstein reports from Melbourne

The success of a right-wing racist party in the northern Australian state of Queensland has stunned Australia's 100,000-strong Jewish community. Ultra-conservative politician Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party stands to win at least 10 seats in Queensland's 89-member state parliament after one in four Queenslanders voted for the anti-Aboriginal, anti-Asian, anti-foreign investment, anti-free trade party in last Saturday's poll.

Final results are not expected for several days yet as postal and absentee ballots are counted, which could affect the results in a number of closely contested seats. Hanson, who formed her party 15 months ago, still believes she could end up with as many as 13 seats — an unprecedented result for any first-time contestant in an Australian poll.

Hanson's chief adviser, David Oldfield, said One Nation had tapped anxiety about the country's "Asianization" — Asians total 40 percent of the country's annual immigration.

"It's not a matter of racism, it's a matter of cultural intolerance," Oldfield said. "We are different. It doesn't mean we are better or they are better or either of us are worse — we are simply different."

"These people have got away from a country where extortion runs rampant... they're coming here not as Australians, but [as] Asian Australians — that's why extortion is up so high in Queensland," said Hanson, who produced no evidence to support her claim that extortion had increased by 500% in a decade.

If One Nation's Queensland success translates nationwide, an early election could give Hanson the balance of power in the Senate.

While only about 3,000 Jews live in Queensland, and the One Nation Party has not specifically targeted Jews as part of its xenophobic agenda, Hanson's victory has sent shock waves throughout the Australian Jewish community.

Many Australian Jews are Holocaust survivors or their descendants, and the community is highly sensitized to any political development that carries perceived echoes of pre-World War Two Europe.

"While it would be inaccurate to compare Hanson with Hitler, it should be noted that the majority of people who voted for Hitler were not antisemites, but rather were troubled by the economic dislocation and political alienation of the times," the local B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission warned in a recent publication.

A similar sentiment was expressed by Simon Pinchower of Melbourne. "We know what happens when such people come to power," he told the *Australian Jewish News* in a street poll conducted in the heart of Jewish East St. Kilda immediately after the election. "She is a major worry."

BUT WHILE many Australian Jews feel uneasy about what happened in Queensland, and fear that Hanson's racist message will spread particularly to the economically depressed rural regions in New South Wales and possibly Victoria — the two states where the bulk of Australia's 100,000 Jews live — the response of the community leadership, although express-

ing shock and concern, has been level-headed and sober.

"We are bitterly disappointed at the result," said Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies president Laurie Rosenblum.

"But I don't believe 25 percent of the people in Queensland were turned with the same brush [as some racist supporters of One Nation]. I know some people who do not have a racist bone in their bodies, but felt that both major parties should be given a kick in the bum."

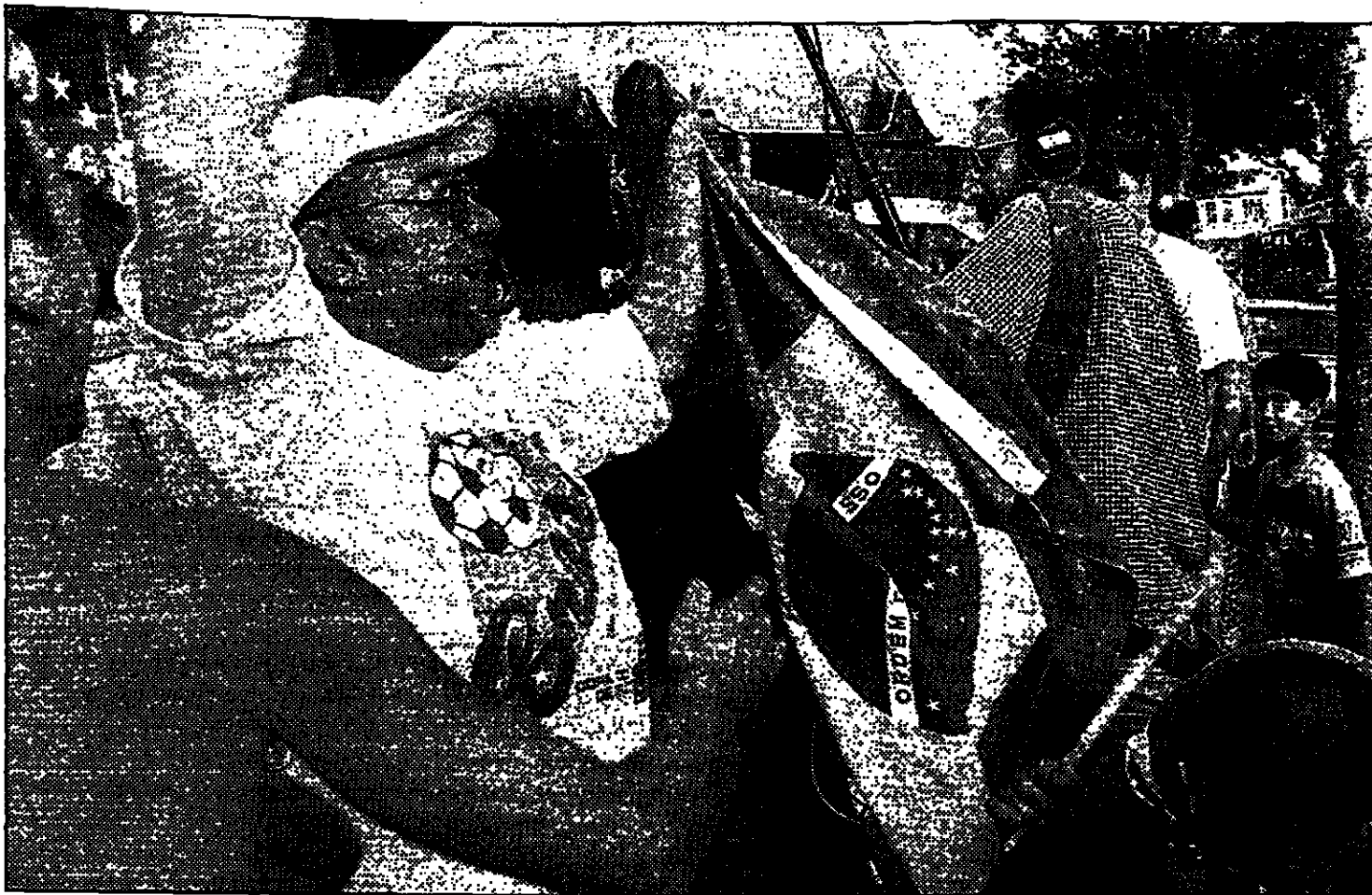
That, essentially, has been the position of the national Jewish leadership as well, which has directed its sharpest criticism not at those who voted for One Nation but at Liberal Prime Minister John Howard, whom it blames for not taking an unequivocal stand against Hanson and her One Nation Party as soon as it emerged little more than a year ago.

In particular, Jewish leaders have been scathing of Howard's obdurate refusal to follow the Labor opposition's example and place the One Nation Party last on all Liberal party voting cards.

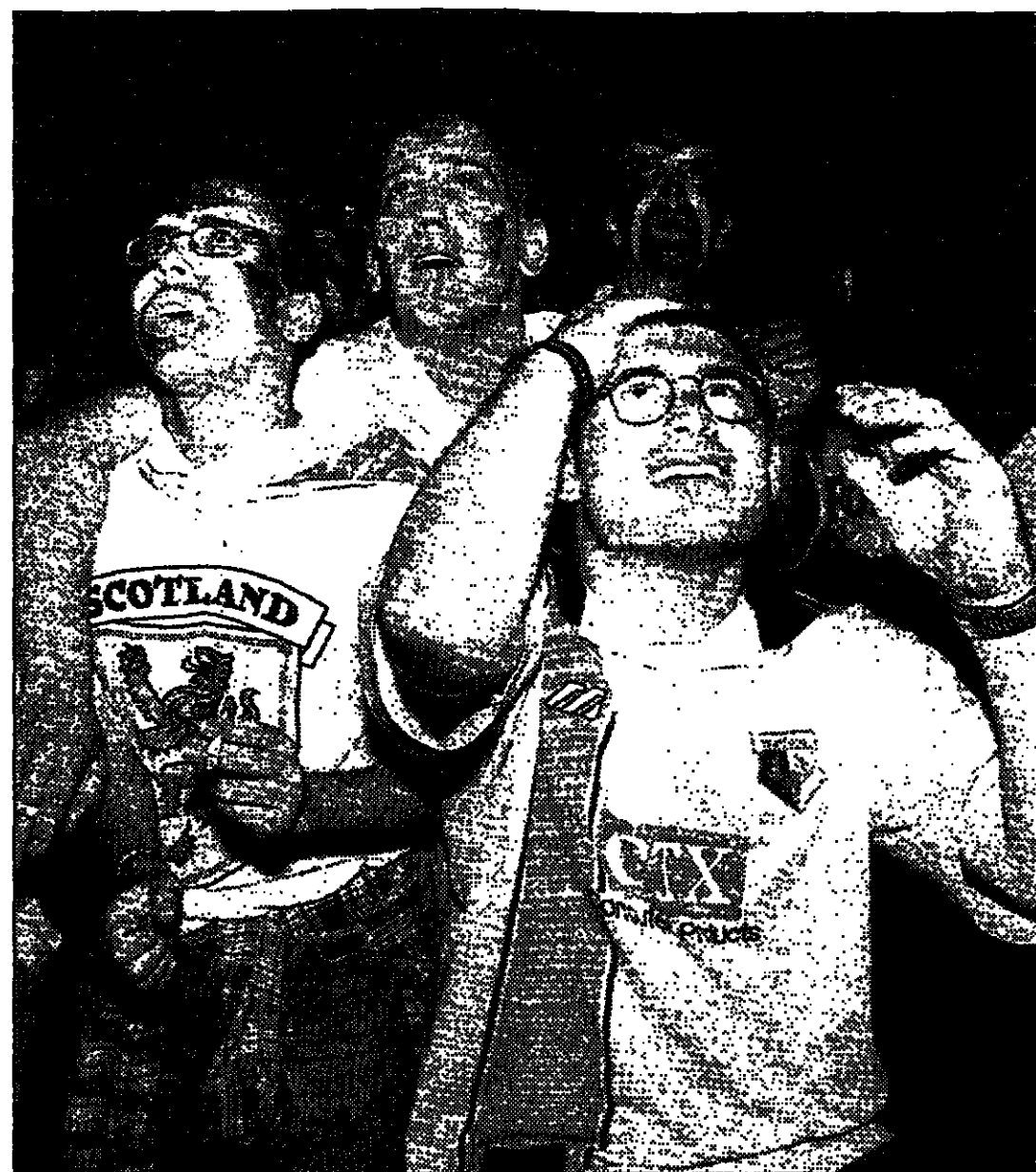
Insisting that he perceives the opposition Labor Party to be the "natural enemy" of the ruling Liberal party, Howard has not ruled out continuing to place the Labor candidate behind One Nation in future elections.

The Australian-Israeli and Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC) — the Jewish community's most energetic lobby group — has written to Prime Minister Howard saying it is now a matter of absolute critical importance that there should be no actual or perceived ambivalence on the part of the government on the issue of One Nation.

Placing One Nation last on voting cards in any future election "would send a positive message to the Australian electorate, reinforcing your government's continuing commitment to the values of diversity, mutual respect and opposition to any form of bigotry which have served Australia so well at home and abroad," the letter said.



An Israeli boy watches jubilant Brazilian fans in Tel Aviv after their national soccer team scores the first goal against Scotland during the opening game of this year's World Cup: Brazil commands a lot of attention among local soccer lovers. (AP)



Despair and disbelief on the faces of Scottish football fans at Jerusalem's Underground pub as Scotland's team misses a goal in the first half of the game against Brazil. (AP)

Getting their kicks

It's Wednesday night on Herzl Street in Ramle. The TVs in the kafelafel and sandwich joints are tuned to Italy vs. Cameroon. At each cafe a few men sit at the plastic tables, drinking beer or soda, watching quietly, intensely, except when there's a goal or a near-miss. Then there's a brief hubbub, and afterwards quiet and intensity comes over them again.

At Shwama Ahla (Great Shwama), Roni Ben-Hur is disappointed in his countrymen. "It's not like it used to be with the World Cups. Then people wouldn't miss it, they were so wrapped up in it. Now? You don't feel the same excitement," the pensioner says, his eyes on the screen.

Kobi Pinto, who runs the cafe, agrees. "Maybe it's because of the recession - people are working more overtime, I don't know," he says. Ben-Hur thinks it's frustration. "This year everybody thought the Israeli team was going to make it, and they didn't," he says.

Once again, Israel was beaten in the regional tournament and didn't qualify for the 32-team World Cup lineup. The one time it did was 1970 in Mexico.

"Everybody was watching then," Ben-Hur recalls. He recites some of the names from that team - Giora Spiegel, Moshé Spiegel, Yitzhak Vissoker. Pinto, 22, and his brother Avi, 15, smile and roll their eyes.

Even if Ben-Hur and Pinto are right, and Israelis aren't as revved up for this World Cup as for previous ones, local fans are far from indifferent.

Twenty-nine percent of Tuesday night's TV watchers were tuned to Brazil vs. Morocco - a big game for Israelis because Brazil, the defending champion, commands a

lot of attention and allegiance, while Morocco, the country of origin of so many Israeli fans, does the same.

The World Cup didn't threaten to break any local ratings records, but in this, the first full week of play with three more to go, it was definitely the main topic of conversation, the event that dominated the country's evenings.

It was notable that Israelis could get as worked up as they did over the World Cup, even though the national team wasn't playing. "It shows that Israelis aren't as 'Israeli' as people think," says Ben-Gurion University sociology Prof. Amir Ben-Porat, who has studied the social impact of soccer.

"Everybody has a 'second team' they root for, whether it's the country they or their families come from, or just some team that's caught their imagination. By far the most popular team for Israelis is Brazil, partly because they want to go with the winner, partly because of Brazil's image -

the samba, the Batocada, the dancing, the music," Ben-Porat says.

Other popular teams are Italy, France and England, because they're among the best, and because they show up regularly on cable TV. "I'm sure some Israelis root for Germany, but they won't say so out loud," he adds.

Ben-Hur, however, insists that Brazil is popular for strictly substantive reasons - their passing is more intricate, less conventional, than that of other teams. "They're just more pleasing to watch," he says. He himself isn't committed to any one team, but he leans toward France - again, for their style of play.

WHILE Israelis are showing an internationalist attitude with their interest in the World Cup, this hasn't diminished their enthusiasm for Israeli soccer.

"I'd rather watch two Israeli teams playing each other than

Italy playing Cameroon," Ben-Hur says. He roots for Hapoel Beersheba because decades ago he worked near Beersheba, started hanging out with the players and fell in love with the team. Pinto is completely devoted to "Israel's team," Betar Jerusalem, and used to go to every game before he became busy with the shwama stand.

As with fast food and rock 'n' roll, so it is with soccer - Israelis can imbibe the "big world's" popular culture without losing the taste for their own.

Another thing the World Cup is teaching Israelis, or reminding them, is that violence in Israeli soccer is nothing compared to what goes on in some countries that are reputedly more civilized, Ben-Porat says.

There's been an increase in violence at local games in the past year, with fans sometimes rushing onto the field, usually to attack the referee. This has prompted Israeli sports commentators to warn that soccer here is sliding into the anarchy long seen in England, Holland and other countries.

Then this week, on the streets of France, hundreds of British fans indulged in the old ultraviolence, and it became clear that in soccer hooliganism, Israel, thankfully, is still in a different league.

And while the chants of "death to the Arabs" by Jewish fans and "death to the Jews" by Arab fans have become unremarkable here, the racism that is part of Israeli soccer is also negligible compared to what goes on in Europe, especially England, says Ben-Porat.

"In Israel you may hear racist chants if a Jewish team, especially Betar Jerusalem, is playing an Arab team. If there's violence,

it's usually directed against referees. By the way, some of the worst hatred I ever saw was at a game between two Arab teams, Taibe and Saknin. The fans were literally spitting on each other, cursing each other. It goes back to old disputes between the communities."

"But in England and Holland, there are regular gang fights between the fans. In Holland two fans of opposing teams were murdered after a game last year," he notes. "In England, the violence is planned and organized. They have

come from the United States," he says.

There is one group of Israelis who are noteworthy for their coolness to soccer - American immigrants. The game was virtually non-existent in the US until the 1970s, and it never caught on as a professional sport. Many older American immigrants simply don't understand the game, seeing a lot of kicking and running and very little scoring - all with no discernible pattern.

Charles Harris, who was assistant director of publicity for the Los Angeles Dodgers before

football and basketball ruled, and soccer was far behind," he notes.

As a former publicity man with the team that pioneered the marketing of American sports as wholesome fun for the whole family, not warlike fun for fathers and sons, Harris says he's revolted by the way Israelis take to soccer.

"In Israel, it's still more of a barbaric experience than a family outing, an enjoyable way to spend time with the wife and kids," he says.

"In soccer you have barbed wire fences separating the fans from the field. You don't have that in baseball or basketball. The Israeli attitude to soccer is pretty much one of 'kill the other side.' I think they could benefit a lot from American-style marketing of sports." Harris also recalls that at a 1993 game at Ramat Gan stadium, the only one he has ever attended, foreign black players were met with widespread shouts of *kushi* (nigger) and imitations of monkey sounds.

Ben-Porat isn't a "kill the other side" kind of guy; he's a sociology professor, a solidly middle-class professional, not your stereotypical Israeli soccer fan.

After finishing the interview for this article on his office phone, Ben-Porat was asked for his home phone number in case there were further questions. He gave it with one absolute condition: "Don't call me during the World Cup. I'm serious."

"When I'm watching soccer, I'm like a surgeon in the operating room - I don't want any interruptions."

"In Israel, soccer is still more of a barbaric experience than a family outing or an enjoyable way to spend time with the wife and kids"

Charles Harris, a former publicist for the Los Angeles Dodgers

extreme right-wing political agitators who deliberately stir it up. There's nothing like that in Israel."

While soccer is Israel's most popular game and fans come from all social backgrounds, if you take 100 working-class Israelis and 100 middle-class professionals, you'll find more fervor for soccer in the first group, and more for basketball in the second, Ben-Porat says.

"Basketball has a 'higher' image - it's played in an air-conditioned sports arena, and it

immigrating to Israel in 1994, says he played soccer as a child, so he understands the game. But he has no interest in the World Cup.

"I saw the headline today that Brazil won, but it has no effect on my life," says the 32-year-old Harris, who owns a public relations firm in Modi'in.

By contrast, the NBA championship, which ended this week, was something Harris was willing to wake up at 5 a.m. to watch on cable TV, or at least videotape. "When I was a kid, baseball,

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Little toil, much trouble

Yossi Olmert, a former director of the Government Press Office and an expert on Middle East affairs, sees trouble ahead if Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu does not transfer more West Bank territory to Palestinian control.

Yet he predicts that the pullback stalemate will last through next May, when the Palestinians are planning to declare statehood.

"Neither Netanyahu nor Arafat intends to implement the second troop pullback before May 5, 1998," Olmert says in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* editorial board, noting the date when Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has said he will proclaim an independent state.

"That is when the Palestinians' war of national liberation will start," Olmert says. "The US is trying to avoid this calamity by pushing Netanyahu into going ahead with the second IDF redeployment and proceeding to final-status talks."

"But how can he agree to a subsequent pullback from between 40 and 70 percent of the West Bank if he cannot agree to 11% now?" Olmert asks.

Olmert describes himself as "a Netanyahu rebel," after the prime minister failed to appoint him as ambassador to the United Nations.

"Netanyahu destroyed the party," he charges, contending that all that remains is a "machinery for the reelection of Binyamin Netanyahu." His analysis of the prime minister's approach to the Oslo Accords and the Middle East peace process is equally scathing.

Among the many alleged mistakes he lays at Netanyahu's door is the decision to open the Western Wall Tunnel in September 1996 — "that was his initiative," he says.

The remark seems to exonerate Olmert's brother, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, from primary responsibility for the ensuing controversy over the tunnel which triggered a wave of Palestinian unrest and broad international condemnation of Israel.

According to Olmert, Netanyahu also erred by shunning Arafat right after he was elected.

"Netanyahu was elected as a supporter of the Oslo Accords. He should have met Arafat immediately and laid out his rules of the game. Arafat was at his weakest point then and Bibi was on top," Olmert says.

He contends that Netanyahu has maneuvered himself into a position where his credibility is low.

Yossi Olmert, former peace negotiator with Syria, lays strong charges against Binyamin Netanyahu — and against Ze'ev Bielski, whom he's hoping to oust as Ra'anana's mayor. Jay Bushinsky reports



Netanyahu destroyed the Likud, Olmert says. As for Ra'anana Mayor Bielski, his reelection would usher in "dark days."

"He has justifiable positions on many issues, but is surrounded by inexperienced people who cannot be compared to the aides who served his predecessors," says Olmert.

Turning to Syria, one of Olmert's academic specialties, he suggests that a lot of precious time in negotiating a deal with Damascus may have been wasted.

Olmert notes how Syrian President Hafez Assad was "forced" into attending the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference by the fall of the Soviet Union. Olmert was a delegate to the talks with Syria that ensued after the Madrid conference.

Circumstances, however, have since changed, he says. Syria feels less pressure to reach a settlement.

"Now Russia is returning to the region and is willing to exert its influence. The Russians and Syrians are warming up their relations. Meanwhile, Assad goes on thinking in terms of years, unlike the Israelis who think only in terms of months," Olmert says.

On the one hand, Olmert dismisses the notion that restoration of the Golan Heights to Syrian control is Assad's highest priority. This is because Damascus has other issues to consider as well such as the loss of significant

territory to neighboring Turkey (including the strategic Alexandretta area), the severance of Lebanon from Syria by the French and British after World War I and how to break out of its isolation (Iran is Syria's closest ally) by currying favor with the US.

"Insofar as the Golan Heights are concerned, though, Assad will demand the return of every square centimeter lost in the Six Day and Yom Kippur Wars," Olmert says.

The only border he will accept is that of June 4, 1967, not the international boundary between Palestine and Syria that existed before May 14, 1948, Olmert adds.

Still, Olmert doubts that Assad would go to war with Israel over the Golan issue or allow conditions in Lebanon to get out of control.

"Lebanon is a lucrative asset for him, millions of dollars are pouring in thanks to [Lebanese] Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and Syria gets a 40% cut," says Olmert.

"A unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the security zone would be a gamble because no one can predict what Hizbullah or the Palestinians would do," he adds.

In Olmert's view, Damascus is not the only Middle Eastern state bereft of international sympathy. "Netanyahu is bringing about Israel's isolation," he charged, largely by creating a situation in which "nothing is happening."

Olmert has also lately started focusing on the goings on inside his own backyard, or hometown. He is challenging Ra'anana Mayor Ze'ev Bielski in the November elections.

He predicts dark days for Ra'anana if Bielski is reelected.

He accuses Bielski of turning Ra'anana into "the center of political hooliganism in Israel," charging that some of his supporters have been threatened.

Olmert denies harboring any personal grievances against Bielski. "He's a good mayor," Olmert concedes, "but I'll be a better one."

Bielski rejects Olmert's charges. "I regret that irresponsible people choose the way of slander and personal assaults to further their political goals," he says.

Bielski also cites that his municipality has won a number of awards such as the Israel Standards Institution's ISO-9002 prize, and is one of the few cities in the country with a balanced budget.

Olmert contends that the city's infrastructure lags far behind population growth, is "the capital of Israel's traffic jams," lacks central planning and "is allowing a small group of developers and entrepreneurs" to put up shopping malls that are destroying smaller veteran retailers.

The municipality's director-general, Uri Kedar, maintains that Olmert's charges "stem from a lack of information." He notes that since Bielski took office in 1989, four new schools and some athletic fields have been built.

roads have been paved, the sewage treatment plant is also under construction and scheduled to be completed by November.



Joel Alpert (left) and Jonathan Davis at the dedication plaque noting the senior university officials' contributions to the Hebrew University's \$600 million campaign. (Hezi photography)

GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

When he's in Jerusalem he feels at home, US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat told the Israel Council on Foreign Relations. Small wonder. Former Foreign Ministry director-general Prof. Shlomo Avineri taught Eizenstat's wife, Fran, when she was a student in a Jerusalem-based Brandeis program in the 1960s. And Meir Rosenne, former Israel ambassador to the US, was a close friend of Eizenstat's throughout his period of tenure, as was Naftali Lavie, Israel's former consul-general in New York. All three men were among the large group which shared Eizenstat's table at the capital's Laromme Hotel. Eizenstat was also happy to be reunited with his son, Jay, who is studying at the Mir Yeshiva, his daughter-in-law Jessica and his 10-month-old grandson.

SEMANTIC differences: In greeting guests to a luncheon she hosted on behalf of the Hebrew University's Board of Governors, Pnina Herzog noted the presence of Friends of Shalom Zedek hospital and a large representation of the diplomatic corps. Singling out US Ambassador Edward Walker, the newest of the ambassadors present, Herzog told him that when she welcomed previous American ambassadors she expressed her hopes of strengthening the ties between Israel and the US. She said her current hope, however, is that Walker will "renew" the close relationship between Israel and the US.

CELEBRATING his acceptance as a member of the Diplomatic Spouses Association is Milos Kuret, husband of Slovenian ambassador Darja Bavdaz Kuret. The DSA is one of the few organizations in which women are decidedly in the majority — but Kuret apparently doesn't mind being surrounded by so many of the fair sex.

IT'S "an antidote to formality," said British Ambassador David Manning, explaining the essence of an innovation which he introduced at last year's Queen's Birthday celebrations. Because his guests were so hot, Manning invited them to dig freely into ice cream tubs containing several varieties of the cold stuff on a stick. If he's still here next year, he may also include traditionally British crumpets on the menu. With all the different breads and pastries now available to Israelis, Manning says, he can't understand why there aren't any crumpets.

AS A RULE, plastic surgeon Dr. Binyamina Rosenberg-Hagen steers clear of cocktail parties. The reason? To avoid "cocktail consultations." When she made an exception recently and attended a party, a former client promptly cornered her and asked whether she needed another collagen treatment.

FUND-RAISING apparently does run in the Alpert family. Joel Alpert, academic secretary of the Hebrew University, probably learned a thing or two about institutional fund-raising from his father, former long-time Technion vice-president Carl Alpert, whose weekly column on Israel has been widely distributed for decades in Jewish newspapers abroad. So it was natural that Alpert junior should come up with a close-to-home fund-raising idea which he presented to Jonathan Davis, the Hebrew University's director for development and public relations. Why not ask the university's senior administrative officials to make their own contribution to the university's current \$600 million fund-raising campaign, serving as an example to others?

Alpert got the green light, and, to his pleasant surprise, 49 officials responded immediately, making contributions to 12 scholarships for needy students at the university. Although the dedication plaque has already gone up on the university's Founders' Wall, Alpert will happily make an amendment, as the contributions keep coming in.

POP diva Dana International has chosen former Jerusalem Post staffer Tom Gross, who now writes for *The Daily Telegraph*, to work with her on her autobiography. The book, Gross's third, is to

be written in English. It will be a tell-all account of the pop star's struggle to become a woman and a celebrity singer. The world's best-known transsexual is now dividing her time between London and Tel Aviv. Her Eurovision-winning single *Divas* has been re-recorded in English and was released last Monday in London by Sony records. The Hebrew version is already in the Top Ten in Belgium, Holland and elsewhere.

OVERHEARD at a Welcome to Summer party hosted by South African ambassador Frank Land and his wife Maatchen in the spacious garden of their Ramat Gan residence: MK Walid Sadek, in conversation with Mordechai Paltnur, former chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, was comparing the Arab and Jewish communities. If he were Jewish, Sadek said, he'd belong to Shas, because it has the best community support system.

Former South Africans at the party were outnumbered by guests from elsewhere. An ironic detail: Sylvia Duran, the most famous South African expatriate at the party, has distinguished herself by promoting Spanish dancing in Israel.

WHAT does President Ezer Weizman have in common with television anchor rivals Mickey Haimovich and Genda Even? All three celebrated their birthdays on June 15. Weizman turned 74, Haimovich turned 36, and Even, the youngest of the trio, turned 26.



Yael Abecassis: flying high (Isaac Harari)

THOUGH not quite as spry as MK Shimon Peres, who turns 75 in August and is still making frequent visits abroad in addition to traveling all over the country, Weizman is still incredibly active for his age.

Another personality who has remained busy is Yosef Burg, who is in frequent demand as a guest speaker. The 89-year-old head of the World Mitzvah Movement and chairman of Yad Vashem won't have far to go when he addresses the B'nai B'rith Albert Einstein Lodge on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. The gala dinner, which will also honor the state's 50th anniversary, is being held at the King's Hotel, around the corner from Burg's home.

DRAG queen artists Pessia's Daughters played it straight when they turned up at Gan Oranin this week to congratulate songstress Zahava Ben and her husband Assaf Rosen on the birth of their son and his induction into the faith.

SUPERMODEL Yael Abecassis is flying high after signing a two-year promotional contract with El Al. Abecassis will appear in both print and electronic media campaigns to boost the airline's popularity.

AT a reunion this week of survivors of the ill-fated ship *Altalena*, former Knesset speaker Dov Shilansky, who was among the Holocaust survivors aboard the vessel, recalled his first impressions of coming within sight of the Promised Land: "We thought they would receive us with open arms; instead they received us with gunfire."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir were invited to the event, held within the framework of the state's jubilee celebrations, but they decided to pass.

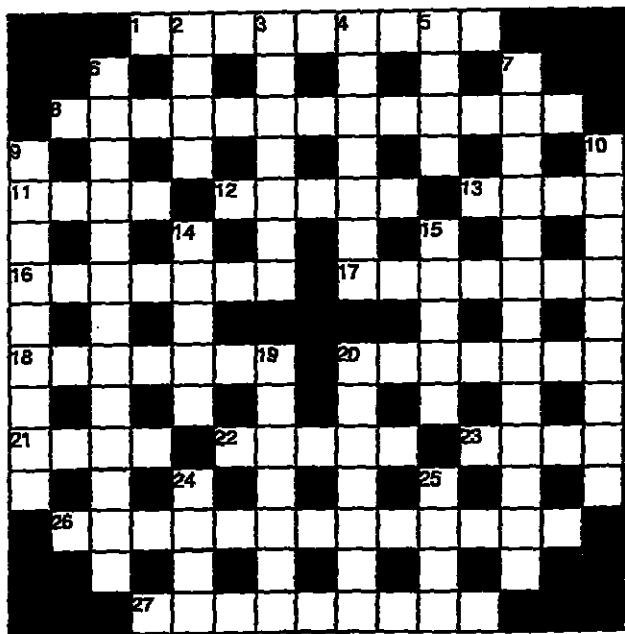
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Italian island produce shows a sign of winter (9)
- 8 Musical representation of uncles rebels (3,10)
- 11 Duty to which criticised people are taken (4)
- 12 Feeble Rector goes in to die (5)
- 13 Sunhat, the best one (4)
- 16 In prison, see our fortune teller (7)
- 17 Divorced wife with more than enough warning (7)
- 18 Wild animal cruelly chained (7)
- 20 Good firm engaging fool as painter (7)
- 21 Not complete, but a hopeful state (4)

DOWN

- 2 With which a Cockney wounds? (4)
- 3 Again supply book (7)
- 4 Concern to guard container for rifle (7)
- 5 Polish unknown gem (4)



6 Information published on rogue whales in Australia (3,5,5)

- 7 Two-note piece of music? What rot! (13)
- 9 Mick upset horribly by armed robbers' demand (5,2,2)
- 10 Extremely rigid Conservative heading for place of concealment? (19)
- 14 First two letters from Hywel are useful (5)
- 15 Striker chosen for game (5)
- 19 Extent of imperial land? (7)
- 20 Mineral—it is used in fires (7)
- 24 Ancient gives silver to boy (4)
- 25 Under stress, being instructed orally (4)

SOLUTIONS

PARATROOPS 6
SELF-DENIAL 7
UNION 8
REPTILES 9
WIFE 10
STEP 11
DU 12
VISA 13
REPTILES 14
REPTILES 15
REPTILES 16
REPTILES 17
REPTILES 18
REPTILES 19
REPTILES 20
REPTILES 21
REPTILES 22
REPTILES 23
REPTILES 24
REPTILES 25
REPTILES 26
REPTILES 27

Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 7 Heights, 8 Bassoon, 10 Reel, 11 Ewer, 12 Ewer, 13 Steel, 17 Trail, 18 Pine, 22 Motel, 23 Learned, 24 Ending, 25 Modern.
DOWN: 1 Shorten, 2 Kitchen, 3 Short, 4 Deleted, 5 Ashen, 6 Units, 9 Certainly, 14 Pretend, 15 Slander, 16 Mending, 19 Amber, 20 Giddy, 21 Harve.

QUICK CROSSWORD

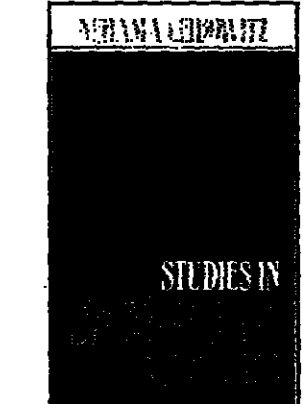
- 5 Ground meal (5)
- 8 Celebration (8)
- 9 Root vegetable (5)
- 10 Flows out (8)
- 11 Cornish city (5)
- 14 Consumed (3)
- 16 French philosopher (6)
- 17 Rank (5)
- 18 Rail (3)
- 20 Of the ear (5)
- 24 Power (8)
- 25 Sabeian kingdom (5)
- 26 Of sound (8)
- 27 Frank (5)

- 1 Later (5)
- 2 Composition (5)
- 3 Ultimate (5)
- 4 Evident (6)
- 6 Letting down (8)
- 7 Offer lower price (8)
- 12 Russian grandmother (8)
- 13 Motorcycle rally (8)
- 14 Priestly garment (3)
- 15 Be mistaken (3)
- 19 Charge (6)
- 21 Madagascar puma (5)
- 22 Chalcedony (5)
- 23 Dense (5)

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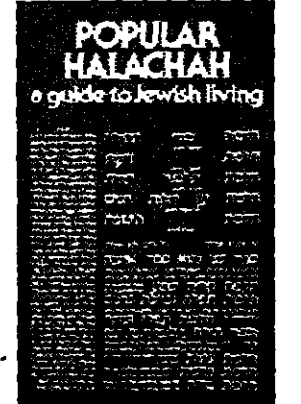
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Rhodes, Cronje rescue South Africa

By NEIL MANTHORP

LONDON (Reuters) - Jonty Rhodes and Hansie Cronje rescued South Africa with an unbroken 89-run stand yesterday after England seamer Dominic Cork picked up four early wickets on the first day of the second Test at Lord's.

Cork was in devastating form from the moment he took the new ball after a rain-delayed start, vindicating Alec Stewart's decision to bowl first.

The recently recalled Derbyshire all-rounder reduced South Africa to 46 for four, before Rhodes (47) and Cronje (38) regained control to guide the tourists to 135 for four at stumps.

Cork took wickets in his second and third overs to reduce the tourists to 16 for two.

Left hander Gary Kirsten (4) made a late decision to leave a ball outside off stump but could not remove him as quickly enough and the steeply rising delivery clipped the inside edge and deflected onto his stumps.

Jacques Kallis was bowled for a duck in the fifth over of the innings by an off-cutter and South Africa probably felt relieved when rain drove the teams from the field eight balls later with the total on 21 for two.

But Cork and Angus Fraser returned as fresh as ever for another 12 overs before test and Cork struck twice more to finish the day with figures of four for 53 from 14 overs.

Opener Adam Bacher received

the best ball of the day - a fast, late away swinger - which hit the edge of his bat and flew to wicket-keeper Alec Stewart.

Bacher's promising innings of 22 spanned 43 deliveries and contained four boundaries.

Daryll Cullinan also provided Stewart with a catch but his dismissal owed more to an in-judicious attempted drive off the back foot which ended his innings of 16 from 36 balls.

But Cronje and number six Rhodes turned the innings on its head with a stand of 89 in just 17 overs.

Having taken tea perilously placed at 54 for four, Rhodes hooked Cork into the top level of the Lord's stand to start a sequence of eight overs that yielded 53 runs. Dean Headley's three overs cost 24 runs and Mark Ealham was almost as costly giving up 17 from three overs.

South Africa first innings

G.Kirsten b Cork	4
A.Bacher c Stewart b Cork	22
J.Kallis b Cork	0
D.Cullinan c Stewart b Cork	16
H.Cronje not out	38
J.Rhodes not out	47
Extras (nb-5, lb-3)	8
Total (for four, 34 overs)	135

Fall of wickets: 1-8 2-16 3-43 4-46

Bowling: Fraser 14-3-58-0, Cork 14-3-53-4 (4), Headley 3-0-24-0, Ealham 3-0-17-0

To bat: Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Allan Donald, Paul Adams

England: Mike Atherton, Steve James, Nasser Hussain, Alec Stewart (captain), Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, Mark Ealham, Dominic Cork, Robert Croft, Dean Headley, Angus Fraser

Maddux stops Marlins on 4-hitter

ATLANTA (AP) - Greg Maddux pitched another gem.

Maddux tossed a four-hitter to become the majors' first 10-game winner as the Atlanta Braves beat the Florida Marlins 6-2 Wednesday night.

By limiting Florida to a pair of unearned runs, Maddux (10-2) dropped his ERA to 1.62, second-best in the NL. The four-time Cy Young winner has allowed two runs or fewer in 10 straight starts. Maddux gave the Braves their third consecutive complete game for the first time since 1995.

Chipper Jones hit a two-run homer and Gerald Williams had a

after McGwire completed a 3-for-5 night by flying out in the eighth. So they missed Houston's ninth-inning rally, which included Jeff Bagwell's tying two-run homer and Brad Ausmus' winning RBI single.

Brewers 6, Cubs 5

John Jaha hit a three-run homer in the top of the seventh as Milwaukee overcame another homer by Sammy Sosa and a pair of two-run shots from Jose Hernandez.

Sosa's homer in the fourth was his 16th in 18 games and 25th this year.

Phillies 3, Pirates 1

Curt Schilling pitched a two-hitter and struck out 10 as host Philadelphia completed a three-game sweep with their fourth straight win.

Giants 6, Rockies 3

Kirk Rueter pitched six strong innings and Rich Aurilia hit a debreaking two-run homer in the bottom of the sixth.

Diamondbacks 4, Reds 1

Jay Bell homered and drove in two runs and Devon White hit his first right-handed homer of the season for visiting Arizona.

Expos 5, Mets 4

Brad Fuller won it with a two-out RBI single in the bottom of the ninth as the Expos snapped a three-game losing streak.

Fuller's sinking liner fell in front of diving center fielder Brian McRae and scored Shane Andrews.

Padres 3, Dodgers 2 (12)

Wally Joyner's bloop single in the bottom of the 12th got past center fielder Roger Cedeno, allowing Greg Vaughn to score from first and give the Padres their ninth straight win.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Devil Rays 2, Blue Jays 1

Rolando Arroyo, pitching for the first time since members of



BLAST OFF - Cardinals' Mark McGwire hits his 32nd HR in 6-5 loss to Astros.

ed a three-game sweep. Strawberry's 10th homer, a three-run shot to center in the first, was the longest in the seven-year history of Camden Yards.

Royals 4, Indians 3

Jose Rosado won for the third time in four starts despite being knocked out by a liner off his pitching arm.

Dwight Gooden (1-3) hit two batters and was booed in a shaky 5 1/2 innings. He allowed four runs and eight hits.

Tigers 6, Twins 2

Tony Clark homered from both sides of the plate as host Detroit won for just the fifth time in 17 games.

Red Sox 12, White Sox 5

Mo Vaughn and Troy O'Leary each drove in three runs as visiting Boston won for the sixth time in seven games. Vaughn had three hits, including a two-run homer. Nomar Garciaparra had three hits and two RBIs for the Red Sox.

Athletics 3, Rangers 2

Kenny Rogers pitched 7 1/2 innings to beat his former team and visiting Oakland took advantage of two errors by Texas first baseman Will Clark to win its fourth straight.

Angels 4, Mariners 2

Darin Erstad brought Anaheim from behind with a two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh, and Omar Olivares (5-2) pitched eight strong innings. The victory came in Anaheim manager Terry Collins' first game back from an eight-game suspension.

The win moved the Angels 1 1/2 games ahead of Texas in the AL West. Erstad's 16th homer equaled his 1997 total and put the Angels up by a run against Jeff Fassero (5-4).

Olivares, impressive since moving from the bullpen to the starting rotation May 1, gave up two runs and four hits.

Yankees 5, Orioles 3

At Baltimore, Darryl Strawberry hit a 465-foot homer off Mike Mussina (5-4) as New York avert-

Westphal takes reins in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP) - It's official. The Seattle SuperSonics confirmed Wednesday they are hiring Paul Westphal to succeed fired coach George Karl.

"It feels great. I couldn't be happier," Westphal said during a news conference. "I was waiting for a great job and this is a great job."

He said his contract was for four years, but declined to elaborate on terms. Sonics spokesmen said they could not provide those figures. He reportedly will receive approximately \$1.5 million each season.

Five years ago, Westphal took a Phoenix Suns team to the NBA Finals.

Sonics management clearly hopes that Westphal, out of coaching almost three years, can do the same for Seattle, which this season couldn't get past the second round of the playoffs.

Karl, who had the best winning percentage of any coach in Sonics' history at .719, was fired two weeks after Seattle was eliminated following four consecutive losses to the Los Angeles Lakers.

Wally Walker, team president and general manager, is expected to sit down with Westphal and overhaul a team led by Gary Payton and Vin Baker.

Although the Sonics were one of the NBA's elite teams during the regular season, winning 61 games, they looked like an old team at the end of the season and during the playoffs.

Nate McMillan is retiring. Sam Perkins may retire and the futures of Greg Anthony, Dale Ellis and Jerome Kersey, all key bench players, are unclear.

The Sonics won't get much help in next Wednesday's draft.

They will have the 27th selection in the first round and Nos. 32 and 33 in the second round.

In three-plus seasons as coach of the Suns, Westphal had a 191-88 record. He became the winningest rookie coach in NBA history in 1992-93 when the Suns went 62-20 and reached the NBA Finals, losing in six games to the Chicago Bulls.

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS	
BATTING - Orlan, New York, .348; Kerdall, Pittsburgh, .347; McGriff, Chicago, .347; Gwynn, San Diego, .342; Bichette, Colorado, .337; Jordan, St. Louis, .336; Walker, Colorado, .335.	
RUNS - Siggy, Houston, 64; Chones, Atlanta, 60; Galaraga, Atlanta, 59; McGwire, St. Louis, 57; Glavine, Philadelphia, 56; Sosa, Chicago, 55; LWalker, Colorado, 51.	
RBI - McGwire, St. Louis, 81; Galaraga, Atlanta, 67; Castillo, Colorado, 65; Sosa, Chicago, 64; Alou, Houston, 58; Chones, Atlanta, 57; Gvaughn, San Diego, 57.	
HITS - Glavine, Philadelphia, 100; Bichette, Colorado, 100; McGriff, Chicago, 92; Sosa, Chicago, 86; Chones, Atlanta, 87; Biggio, Houston, 85; Kerdall, Pittsburgh, 84; Castillo, Colorado, 84; DeBell, Houston, 84.	
HOME RUNS - McGwire, St. Louis, 32; Sosa, Chicago, 25; Galaraga, Atlanta, 25; Castillo, Colorado, 22; Gvaughn, San Diego, 22; Chones, Atlanta, 18; Mondesi, Los Angeles, 18.	
STOLEN BASES - EYoung, Los Angeles, 27; Womack, Pittsburgh, 24; Biggio, Houston, 24; Renteria, Florida, 20; Clayton, St. Louis, 18; DeShields, St. Louis, 15; Snyers, Cincinnati, 14.	
PUTTING (9 Decisions) - Maddux, Atlanta, 10-2, .833, 1.62; Hillwood, Atlanta, 9-2, .818, .331; Glavine, Atlanta, 9-2, .818, .331; Schmidt, Pittsburgh, 8-3, .727, 3.80; Rueter, St. Louis, 8-3, .727, 3.78; Hampton, Houston, 8-3, .727, 2.80; Reed, New York, 8-3, .727, 2.80; Schilling, Philadelphia, 15-7, .692, 1.53.	
STRIKEOUTS - Schilling, Philadelphia, 157; Wood, Chicago, 107; Stroman, Los Angeles, 105; Martinez, Los Angeles, 91; Kibrown, San Diego, 91; Maddux, Atlanta, 90; Reynolds, Houston, 86.	
SAVES - Hoffman, San Diego, 21; Neri, San Francisco, 21; Shaw, Cincinnati, 18; Beck, Chicago, 17; Wagner, Houston, 16; Urbina, Montreal, 16; Jfranco, New York, 15.	
BATTING - Rodriguez, Texas, .372; BWilliams, New York, .353; Segui, Seattle, .344; Walker, Minnesota, .340; HMorris, Kansas City, .335; Dlester, New York, .329; Thorne, Cleveland, .325.	
RUNS - Griffey Jr., Seattle, 55; Grabe, Oakland, 53; Dieter, New York, 53; Thorne, Cleveland, 53; Durham, Chicago, 52; ARodriguez, Seattle, 51; Lofton, Cleveland, 50.	
RBI - ARodriguez, Seattle, 81; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 82; Thorne, Cleveland, 57; Belle, Chicago, 55; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 55; Easley, Detroit, 52; ARodriguez, Seattle, 51; JKing, Kansas City, 51.	
HITS - Erstad, Anaheim, 92; Mvaughn, Boston, 89; IRodriguez, Texas, 89; ARodriguez, Seattle, 88; McGriff, Tampa Bay, 87; Segui, Seattle, 85; JGonzalez, Texas, 82.	
HOME RUNS - Griffey Jr., Seattle, 25; ARodriguez, Seattle, 24; JGonzalez, Texas, 21; Mvaughn, Boston, 20; Canseco, Toronto, 20; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 18; Easley, Detroit, 17; Thomas, Cleveland, 17.	
STOLEN BASES - Henderson, Oakland, 28; TGoodwin, Texas, 23; Lofton, Cleveland, 22; Canseco, Toronto, 19; BJHunter, Detroit, 18; Stewart, Toronto, 17; Knoblauch, New York, 17.	
PUTTING (9 Decisions) - Cone, New York, 9-1, .900, 4.56; P Martinez, Boston, 8-2, .800, 3.31; Dlester, New York, 8-2, .800, 4.47; WWilliams, Toronto, 7-2, .778, 3.29; Helling, Texas, 6-3, .750, 4.42; Wakefield, Boston, 6-3, .727, 4.18; Nagy, Cleveland, 7-3, .700, 5.18; Crifley, Anaheim, 7-3, .700, 2.63.	
STRIKEOUTS - Martinez, Boston, 125; Robinson, Seattle, 122; Crifley, Anaheim, 109; Clemens, Toronto, 90; Erickson, Baltimore, 87; Sele, Texas, 77; Arroyo, Tampa Bay, 77; Olin, Cleveland, 77; WWilliams, Toronto, 77; Cone, New York, 77.	
SAVES - Pascual, Anaheim, 21; Gordon, Boston, 20; Westbrook, Texas, 19; Ramirez, Toronto, 18; Aguilera, Minnesota, 14; Mirreva, New York, 13; Hernandez, Tampa Bay, 13; Mackenro, Cleveland, 13.	

Kournikova beats Graf for place in semifinals

EASTBOURNE (AP) - In a victory for the new guard over the old, 17-year-old Anna Kournikova overcame an angry Steffi Graf in three sets yesterday to reach the semifinals of the Wimbledon women's tournament at Eastbourne.

Kournikova, a Wimbledon semifinalist last year, needed just over two hours to beat the seven-time Wimbledon champion 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 6-4.

Kournikova fell during the seventh game of the final set and, after the match, was taken to a hospital for precautionary checks on her right hand.

The second-seeded Graf, playing in just her fourth tournament since undergoing knee surgery a year ago, was infuriated by several line calls.

After being broken to go down 5-4 in the final set, Graf spent the entire changeover complaining to tournament director Brenda Perry. She refused to shake hands with the chair umpire at the end of the match.

Givat Ram Stadium - abused and abandoned

By HEATHER CHAIT

It's been almost two months since the Jubilee Bells ceremony at the Hebrew University's Givat Ram campus, but for some, the notes from that occasion still ring maddeningly in their ears.

The stadium, home to Jerusalem's young athletes, rugby teams and the venue for school athletics championships, now lies in a state of abandon, pockmarked with holes, rubble and litter.

The athletics lanes which welcomed the talent of the next generation are now dull, barely visible markings. The fences at the north-entrance, once securely locked, are in disarray and stand wide open, inviting unchecked access into the stadium and the entire university compound.

Granted, the Givat Ram Stadium never reached the dimensions of the Rome Olympic Stadium or even Hadar Yosef in Tel Aviv, but nevertheless, it was Jerusalem's only athletics stadium, and provided facilities for a wide range of activities.

Ironically, the one upright image in the midst of the abject neglect is a symbol of the 50th anniversary celebrations.

The disappearance of a training stadium has led to a wave of sentimental feelings, but more significantly, resentment to the alternative practice site. The athletes have been directed to Gan Sacher, the popular municipal park adjacent to the stadium. The park, which covers an expanse of hilly ground, is home to casual joggers, dogs, cyclists and the family bar.

In short, hardly a suitable venue for long jumpers or javelin throw-

ers to hone their skills, while dodging the stray frisbee or pram-pushed infant.

"The athletes are totally demoralized," says David Ya'alon, whose son, Shai, trains with Hapoel Givat Ram and has been relocated to Gan Sacher.

"Shai, the national cadet long-jump champion, can hardly train in a park which bears no resemblance to a stadium," says Ya'alon. "The athletes may be able to maintain some fitness by running but their specialist skills, like high jump, are being seriously handicapped. I understood that work to restore the stadium would begin immediately after the ceremony but after two months, the sand and iron bars covering the stadium really make a sad sight," he added.

Meir Jaffe, who calls himself "a concerned citizen," agrees. "An agreement was signed that the Jerusalem Municipality would commence renovations directly after the event. Instead, the place looks like it was hit by a tornado."

Jaffe's pleas for attention from the municipality were met with, "there is no money, go train in Gan Sacher."

In a letter to Mayor Ehud Olmert, Avi Elzam, a member of the city council for the One Jerusalem faction, took up the issue, writing, "the athletes cannot train under the conditions in Gan Sacher ... which have severely hampered their achievements and their morale."

Jacques Cohen, secretary general of the Israel Athletic Association, echoes these sentiments. "It's a joke to expect [pole vaulter] Danny Krasnov and [decathlete] Yonatan Harel to practice in Gan Sacher where



HELL'S BELLS - Givat Ram Stadium after the Jubilee Bells celebration.

there are no facilities."

The official reaction from the municipality attempts to put the athletes' fears to rest. Zion Turgeman, head of sport at the municipality, claims that NIS 4.5 million will be invested in a new stadium, with an eight-lane track, on the same location.

"This will be even better than

Hadar Yosef, the best in the country," he asserts. "The athletes will have to be patient, it will take about six months, but eventually they will get their stadium."

When pressed about interim arrangements, Turgeman retorts, "You can't build a hotel without breaking down the room where it will stand."

Concurring with this view, albeit cautiously, is the Department of Media Relations at the Hebrew University. "There has been a delay in the renovation of the stadium but there is an understanding between the parties ... and the university believes that the municipality will abide by its commitment to renovate the stadium by

the end of December 1998," said Eilat Mishor, assistant to the spokesman.

"The promises sound reassuring but the facts on the ground are glaring: in this 50th jubilee year, the capital's athletics future looks less than luminous, the stinging result of the country's central anniversary celebrations.

WINNING CARDS

In yesterday's Mizal Hapayis daily chance drawing

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SPORTS

Friday, June 19, 1998 The Jerusalem Post

3 sent off in Denmark-SA draw

Inside

Big Mac hits 32nd
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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis



TODAY AT THE WORLD CUP
Group D
NIGERIA-BULGARIA Paris
18:30 (Chanel One, Eurosport)
SPAIN-PARAGUAY St. Etienne
22:00 (One, Eurosport)

TOMORROW
Group H
JAPAN-CROATIA Nantes 15:30
(One)
Group E
BELGIUM-MEXICO Bordeaux
18:30 (One, Eurosport)
HOLLAND-SOUTH KOREA
Marseille 22:00 (One, Eurosport)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Group C: S. Africa 1, Denmark 1
Group C: France 4, Saudi Arabia 0.

By ANDREW GRAY

TOULOUSE (Reuters) — Benedict McCarthy scored South Africa's first World Cup goal yesterday to grab a 1-1 draw against Denmark in an incident-packed World Cup match that saw three players sent off, equaling the record in a finals.

All three were substitutes — two from Denmark — sent off in the second half by Colombian John Jairo Toro Rendon who also handed out seven yellow cards.

Only two previous games, in 1938 between Brazil and Czechoslovakia and 1954 between Brazil and Hungary, have seen three players sent off.

Denmark have four points from two games and South Africa their first point at their debut finals.

Allan Nielsen gave Denmark the lead in the group C match when Chelsea-bound Brian Laudrup set him up with a perfectly-measured cross from the right wing. The Tottenham midfielder arrived unmarked at the far post to volley the ball home with his right foot in the 13th minute.

Striker McCarthy, the new superstar of South African soccer, scored the equalizer in the 67th minute against his soccer hero, Peter Schmeichel.

McCarthy, who earlier this week said it was his life's ambition to beat the Danish keeper, ran on to a delightful flick from Sean Bartlett and slotted the ball through Schmeichel's legs from close range.

Denmark were reduced to 10



HEAD TO HEAD — Denmark's Brian Laudrup (left) challenges South Africa's Pierre Issa for the ball during their World Cup match yesterday, which ended 1-1. (Reuters)

men in the 67th minute after a nasty foul by substitute Miklos Molnar on Lucas Radebe. South Africa had Alfred Phiri sent off just two minutes later for elbowing Thomas Helveg in the face.

Incredibly, a third substitute — Denmark's Morten Wieghorst — was shown the red card with five minutes to go for a tackle on McCarthy. Denmark has never had two players sent off before in

a match and have had only two red cards in the last 12 years. Danish defender Jes Høgh said he thought that the referee may have intended to book and not send off Wieghorst, who was only

on for three minutes. "On the second red card he looked as if he had pulled out the wrong card. He was looking at it for a moment and probably did not want to look fooling by putting it

back so he raised it," Høgh said. Danish coach Bo Johansson declined to discuss the refereeing. "It is better that I don't say anything," he said.

Denmark had dominated the opening phase of the game and had several good chances to extend their lead.

Michael Laudrup sent a powerful long-range shot inches over the bar in the 16th minute and Martin Jorgensen nearly scored direct from a corner two minutes later. His kick rebounded off the post and Brian Laudrup then sent a diving header into Hans Vonk's arms.

Striker Ebbe Sand looked set to score in the 42nd minute but his curling shot from the edge of the box hit the upright.

South Africa came alive after the first quarter and they dominated the latter stages of the game after Denmark were reduced to 10 men.

The worst miss of the match — and possibly the tournament so far — came when Mkhalele failed to manage the simplest of tap-ins in front of an open goal after a cross from McCarthy in the 28th minute.

South Africa could have won it at the death when Quimón Fortune shot from 30 meters and beat Schmeichel, but hit the bar.

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	2	2	0	0	7	0	6
Denmark	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
South Africa	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Saudi Arabia	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Remaining matches: June 24 at 18:00: France v Denmark (Lyon), South Africa v Saudi Arabia (Bordeaux)

France rout Saudis 4-0

PARIS (Reuters) — France's inspirational playmaker Zinedine Zidane was sent off after 70 minutes of a bitter-sweet 4-0 win over Saudi Arabia in Group C of the World Cup at the Stade de France yesterday.

Thierry Henry scored twice in the 36th and 77th minutes and there were goals for David Trezeguet (69th) and Bixente Lizarazu (85th).

Zidane, France's most influential player, was shown the red card by the Mexican referee Arturo Brizio Carter for a clumsy challenge on Saudi skipper Fuad Amin.

He was the second player sent off following the 19th minute dismissal of Saudi defender Mohammed Al-Khilaiwi for a far

more serious foul on Lizarazu which sent the Frenchman crashing to the ground.

Zidane's dismissal took the gloss off a French win which was never in doubt and which put them into the second round of the competition, although they made hard work of it at times.

Some woeful finishing — and some fine goalkeeping from Mohammed Al-Daeyea early on — kept Saudi Arabia in the game far longer than they should have been.

After a slew of misses from the likes of Zidane, Henry, Christophe Dugary and Didier Deschamps, France made the breakthrough in the 36th minute when Henry scored with a close range tap-in.

They had to wait until the 69th minute when Trezeguet, a substitute for the injured Dugary, headed home after Al-Daeyea had fumbled a cross from Lilian Thuram. But the third arrived only eight minutes later when Henry scored his second of the game, running through the Saudi defense and firing past Al-Daeyea.

Lizarazu added a fourth for good measure after a nice build-up on the left and shot home from 10 metres.

As well as losing Zidane through suspension, France will also be without Dugary for their remaining group match against Denmark after he was carried off with a hamstring injury which is likely to rule him out of the rest of the tournament.

The result also spell the end of the tournament for Saudi Arabia who are now eliminated and will play South Africa with only pride at stake in their remaining fixture.

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